

1-1 By: Jackson S.C.R. No. 24
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2003; March 20, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs; May 9, 2003,
1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0;
1-5 May 9, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Dr. Jesse Vernal Irons, a director of laboratories
1-8 for the Texas Department of Health for over 20 years, contributed
1-9 significantly to the health of all Texans; the growth and
1-10 development of the state public health laboratory system over the
1-11 middle part of the 20th century owes much to his ingenuity,
1-12 persistence, and courage; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Dr. Irons joined the Texas Department of Health in
1-14 1933, where he served as chief bacteriologist, assistant director,
1-15 and associate director before being named director of laboratories
1-16 in 1946; and

1-17 WHEREAS, During his tenure with the department, he devised a
1-18 rapid test for diagnosis of smallpox that was used extensively in an
1-19 outbreak in 1949, and he guided much of the pioneering work in the
1-20 development of specific technology for large-scale production and
1-21 distribution of smallpox vaccine; also, under the leadership of
1-22 Dr. Irons, the State Public Health Laboratory was licensed for the
1-23 purpose of manufacturing vaccines against whooping cough,
1-24 diphtheria, typhoid, and smallpox; and

1-25 WHEREAS, Dr. Irons also served as an adjunct professor of
1-26 microbiology at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston
1-27 and The University of Texas at Austin and authored or coauthored
1-28 more than 90 scientific and professional publications during his
1-29 career; he was also a member of many health-related organizations,
1-30 often serving in leadership positions, and received numerous honors
1-31 and recognitions for his work; and

1-32 WHEREAS, It is indeed fitting that Dr. Irons be memorialized
1-33 for his achievements as a leader in the field of public health in
1-34 Texas and that this recognition be in association with a facility
1-35 that so accurately represents his contribution and commitment; now,
1-36 therefore, be it

1-37 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-38 hereby direct the Texas Building and Procurement Commission to name
1-39 the new public health laboratory building in Austin for Dr. Jesse
1-40 Vernal Irons as a tribute to his dedication and remarkable efforts
1-41 toward the health and betterment of all Texans; and, be it further

1-42 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
1-43 copy of this resolution to the chair and the executive director of
1-44 the Texas Building and Procurement Commission.

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