

By: Barrientos

S.C.R. No. 32

1                                   SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Approximately two out of every five students of the  
3 freshman class of 1998-1999 left school prior to graduating from a  
4 Texas public high school in 2001-2002; and

5           WHEREAS, Between 1985-1986 and 2001-2002 school years,  
6 nearly 2 million students have been lost from public school  
7 enrollment with estimated cumulative costs for public school  
8 dropouts in the state of Texas in excess of \$488 billion; and

9           WHEREAS, The enormity of the dropout problem has ominous  
10 implications for the future of Texas, considering that 88.4% of the  
11 prison population has not completed the twelfth grade, and out of  
12 this population, 16.5% did not reach the fifth grade. It is  
13 estimated that dropouts make up nearly half the heads of households  
14 on welfare; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
16 hereby establish a special interim committee to study the problem  
17 of high school dropouts in Texas; and, be it further

18           RESOLVED, That the interim study committee be named the Joint  
19 Special Committee on High School Dropouts; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of 10 members: five  
21 members of the senate to be appointed by the lieutenant governor and  
22 five members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the  
23 speaker of the house of representatives; the speaker of the house of  
24 representatives and lieutenant governor shall each designate a

1 cochair from among their appointees; the committee shall meet  
2 initially at the joint call of the cochairs, and the committee shall  
3 subsequently hold meetings and public hearings at the call of the  
4 cochairs; and, be it further

5         RESOLVED, That the committee have the power to issue process  
6 as provided by the senate and house of representatives rules of  
7 procedure and by the senate and house of representatives rules of  
8 procedure and by Section 301.024, Government Code; and, be it  
9 further

10         RESOLVED, That the committee have all other powers and duties  
11 provided to special committees by the senate and house of  
12 representatives rules of procedure, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,  
13 Government Code, and by the policies of the committees on  
14 administration; and, be it further

15         RESOLVED, That, from the contingent expense fund of the  
16 senate and the contingent expense fund of the house of  
17 representatives equally, the members of the committee be reimbursed  
18 for expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this  
19 resolution in accordance with the senate and house of  
20 representative rules of procedure and the policies of the  
21 committees on administration and that other necessary expenses of  
22 operation be paid from the contingent expense fund of the senate and  
23 the contingent expense fund of the house of representatives  
24 equally; and, be it further

25         RESOLVED, That the interim study committee make a complete  
26 report, including findings and recommendations and drafts of any  
27 legislation considering necessary, to the 79th Legislature when it

1 convenes in January 2005; five copies of the completed report shall  
2 be filed in the Legislative Reference Library; five copies shall be  
3 filed with the Texas Legislative Council; two copies shall be filed  
4 with the secretary of the senate; and two copies shall be filed with  
5 the speaker of the house of representatives; following official  
6 distribution of the committee report, all remaining copies shall be  
7 deposited with the legislative reference librarian.