

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, It has been said that "the vote is the most powerful
2 instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice," and
3 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been hailed as the crowning
4 achievement of the American civil rights movement; and

5 WHEREAS, Signed into law on August 6, 1965, the act banned the
6 use of literacy tests, poll taxes, and other stratagemms that had
7 long been used to prevent black Americans and members of other
8 minority groups from casting a ballot; and

9 WHEREAS, The measure authorized federal registrars to enroll
10 voters in areas where 50 percent or more of the voting-age
11 population was unregistered; the act also authorized the
12 appointment of federal observers to monitor polling-place activity
13 on election day, and it allowed new laws affecting voting to be
14 implemented only if they were proven not to have a discriminatory
15 purpose or effect; and

16 WHEREAS, Ensuring the right of all citizens to vote had a
17 profound effect on the political landscape, and the passage of the
18 Voting Rights Act stands as a milestone in this country's
19 continuing quest to honor the high ideals at the heart of the
20 American experiment; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
22 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 40th
23 anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Alonzo

H.R. No. 187

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 187 was adopted by the House on August 11, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House