

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 187

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.