

1 WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is scheduled to
2 expire in 2007; Section 5 contains a special enforcement provision
3 targeted at those areas of the country where congress believes the
4 potential for discrimination to be high and prohibits any change
5 affecting voters until the United States Attorney General has
6 determined that the change will not worsen the ability of minority
7 voters to vote; and

8 WHEREAS, Sections 4(f) and 203 of the Voting Rights Act will
9 also expire in 2007; Sections 4(f) and 203 require bilingual voting
10 assistance for language minority communities in certain
11 jurisdictions; the United States Census Bureau estimates that in
12 Texas approximately 36 percent of the Spanish-speaking Hispanic
13 population over the age of five speaks English less than "very well"
14 or speaks an alternative language; it is estimated that 37 percent
15 of all Asian Americans in Texas speak English less than "very well";
16 the language minority provisions apply to four language minority
17 groups: American Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan natives, and
18 persons of Spanish heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, Texas is covered by Sections 5, 203, and 4(f) of the
20 Voting Rights Act; these sections have opened up the political
21 arena for Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans, and
22 American Indians in Texas and have protected their rightful
23 participation in the political process of Texas; and

24 WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act is a critical link in the
25 struggle to enfranchise the politically marginalized; without
26 reauthorization of these special provisions of the Voting Rights
27 Act, America risks a resurgence of voter discrimination; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,
3 3rd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the
4 United States to reauthorize these critical provisions of the
5 Voting Rights Act of 1965 by passing H.R. 9 or S. 2703; and, be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
8 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
9 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
10 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
11 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
12 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
13 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

S.C.R. No. 11

1 Memorializing Congress to reauthorize certain provisions of the
2 Voting Rights Act of 1965.