

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 16

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature is committed to openness in
2 its voting practices, including public access to or awareness of
3 those practices, and to running an open government in which the
4 citizens of Texas take an active role; and

5 WHEREAS, Integral to taking an active role in one's own
6 government is the ability of each citizen of Texas to easily examine
7 the history of legislation and view how his or her senator or
8 representative voted on that legislation, including committee
9 votes and votes of the full house; and

10 WHEREAS, Current rules for the Texas Senate and the Texas
11 House of Representatives provide for votes at every stage of the
12 legislative process to be reflected in the House and Senate
13 Journals and in committee minutes and reports, all of which are
14 available to the public online; and

15 WHEREAS, While each vote on a bill or other legislation is
16 public information and currently available on the Texas Legislature
17 Online website, finding the record of a vote can be difficult and
18 time-consuming for the user unfamiliar with the legislative
19 process; and

20 WHEREAS, Ensuring that the record of votes be easily
21 accessible to the citizens of Texas is the responsibility of the
22 Texas Legislature, and meeting that responsibility will guarantee
23 that its activities remain open to public scrutiny; now, therefore,
24 be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and Senate of the
2 79th Texas Legislature hereby direct the legislative staff
3 responsible for maintaining the Texas Legislature's Internet
4 websites to develop, as soon as practicable, a link on the main page
5 that will allow the public to easily and promptly access
6 information on votes taken on the passage of legislation in the
7 Texas Legislature by directing the user to a user-friendly history
8 of each item of legislation, clearly enumerating each vote on
9 approval of that legislation, both in committee and on the floor of
10 each chamber, with an explanation of each type of vote.