

By: Strama

H.C.R. No. 111

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The lasting promise of our great nation, that of  
2 freedom from oppression and the preservation of individual liberty,  
3 is the fundamental theme of the very document upon which our system  
4 of government was founded; and

5           WHEREAS, The central importance of the principles outlined in  
6 the United States Constitution once prompted President Harry S.  
7 Truman to describe it as "a living force"; similarly, President  
8 Ronald Reagan evoked the power of the individual liberties  
9 safeguarded by the constitution, referring to "a government which  
10 empowers its people" as "mankind's best defense against tyranny,"  
11 and nowhere are these constitutional guarantees regarding the  
12 rights of the individual articulated more clearly than in the first  
13 10 articles--the aptly named Bill of Rights; and

14           WHEREAS, While the Capitol grounds and adjacent state  
15 properties display statues, memorials, and commemorations of  
16 people, ideals, and events that demonstrate our country's abiding  
17 dedication to the values established by the Bill of Rights, there is  
18 no tribute to the document itself; and

19           WHEREAS, Chapter 443 of the Government Code authorizes the  
20 State Preservation Board to preserve, maintain, and restore the  
21 Capitol grounds and requires proposals to construct a monument or  
22 other improvement to the Capitol Complex to be submitted to the  
23 board for review; Section 443.0071, Government Code, defines the  
24 Capitol Complex to mean the state-owned property within the area

1 bounded on the north by Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard, bounded  
2 on the east by Trinity Street, bounded on the south by 10th Street,  
3 and bounded on the west by Lavaca Street; and

4 WHEREAS, Furthermore, adjoining portions of the Capitol  
5 Complex are grounds preserved and maintained by the Texas Building  
6 and Procurement Commission, which is specifically authorized by  
7 Section 116.3, Title 1, Texas Administrative Code, to approve  
8 modifications or improvements to state-owned property under the  
9 commission's jurisdiction; and

10 WHEREAS, Members of the Texas Legislature find a  
11 commemorative structure to honor the Bill of Rights to be a worthy  
12 addition to the Capitol grounds or adjacent state property and  
13 endorse the incorporation there of a work that will convey to  
14 visitors a sense of history and the faith in human liberty  
15 symbolized by this document; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
17 hereby authorize the State Preservation Board and the Texas  
18 Building and Procurement Commission, subject to state law and rules  
19 of the board and commission, to approve and permit the construction  
20 of a monument on the Capitol grounds or adjacent state property  
21 commemorating the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution;  
22 and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the board and commission be encouraged to  
24 locate the monument on the Supreme Court Plaza, unless another more  
25 appropriate site within the Capitol Complex becomes available; and,  
26 be it further

27 RESOLVED, That no public funds be used for the design and

1 construction of the monument and that the State of Texas not  
2 facilitate fund-raising nor establish a state fund for the deposit  
3 of money raised for the design and construction of the monument;  
4 and, be it further

5         RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an  
6 official copy of this resolution to the executive directors of the  
7 State Preservation Board and the Texas Building and Procurement  
8 Commission.