

1-1 By: McClendon, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Duncan) H.C.R. No. 187
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 14, 2007;
1-3 May 15, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 18, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 18, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Established in 1947 and safeguarded under Section
1-8 67, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, the Employees Retirement
1-9 System of Texas (ERS) provides retirement benefits for state
1-10 employees, elected state officials, and members of the judiciary
1-11 and administers service to approximately 500,000 public employees
1-12 and retirees from about 134 state agencies, 103 higher education
1-13 institutions, and 121 counties; and

1-14 WHEREAS, In 1999, the 76th Texas Legislature provided for a
1-15 supplemental retirement annuity for retired state employees in the
1-16 form of a 13th check, and the next year ERS announced that it would
1-17 issue this lump sum check to state employees who were retired on or
1-18 before August 31, 2000; despite this assurance, retirees are still
1-19 waiting to receive the promised benefit; and

1-20 WHEREAS, Current law permits the ERS board of trustees to
1-21 adopt benefit enhancements if budget projections indicate that the
1-22 ERS fund can pay all retirement benefits due current beneficiaries
1-23 in less than 31 years; data suggests that the system's amortization
1-24 period will remain under 31 years if ERS funding proposed by the
1-25 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 80th Texas Legislature,
1-26 Regular Session, 2007, is maintained; and

1-27 WHEREAS, The hardworking employees of the State of Texas
1-28 greatly contribute to the state and deserve proper compensation for
1-29 their dedication and service to the citizens of Texas; it is
1-30 imperative, therefore, that the legislature show its support for
1-31 the supplemental annuity by firmly endorsing the issuing of a 13th
1-32 check to retirees no later than September 2007; now, therefore, be
1-33 it

1-34 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-35 hereby express its commitment to the state's retired public
1-36 employees and support for the Employees Retirement System of Texas
1-37 board of trustees exercising its statutory authority to provide
1-38 eligible system beneficiaries with a supplemental annuity in the
1-39 form of a 13th check.

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