

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 2455

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Successfully meeting the needs of the legislature  
2 over the course of a 140-day regular session is a Herculean task  
3 willingly taken on every two years by the mere mortal staff of the  
4 Texas Legislative Council; and

5           WHEREAS, Each odd-numbered year, legislators travel to  
6 Central Texas from across the Lone Star State to represent their  
7 constituents at the State Capitol, yet they must stay connected  
8 with the folks back home throughout their tenure in Austin; helping  
9 them to maintain that tie are the intrepid members of the council's  
10 information systems division, whose skilled technical services  
11 crew ensures that both district and Capitol offices are equipped  
12 with the PCs, printers, and software needed to get the job done;  
13 before the session even began, these movers and shakers installed  
14 or relocated equipment in 31 district offices and moved 129 Capitol  
15 offices; the division's Computer Support Center provides training  
16 designed to serve everyone from the most experienced computer geek  
17 to those in the grips of advanced technophobia, and, to help with  
18 those little temporary setbacks that can make the difference  
19 between a bad day and a worse day in the life of a harried  
20 legislative staffer, the division's technical support staff and CSC  
21 operators truly are standing by, ready to lend their vital  
22 expertise over the phone or to dispatch the council equivalent of  
23 the knight in shining armor, the council computer consultant, to an  
24 office just in time to save the day; to date, the staff has answered

1 more than 18,000 trouble calls and provided training to over 1,100  
2 clients; as if that weren't enough, other brainiacs among the IS  
3 staff are constantly at work developing and supporting such custom  
4 network and web applications as LMS, CMS, MSS, and TLO to accomplish  
5 ever more amazing feats; and

6       WHEREAS, The hardworking attorneys, legal assistants,  
7 editors, and support staff of the legal division effectively bid  
8 their private lives a fond farewell in the November before each  
9 regular session to once again fully devote themselves to supporting  
10 the work of the legislature; relied on for the sharpness of their  
11 minds, the accuracy of their work, and the resilience of their  
12 sleep-deprived bodies, these folks are one by one helping to craft  
13 the proposed laws of the Lone Star State; to that end, legal staff  
14 members have collectively put in more than 23,000 hours of overtime  
15 this session to produce some 8,000 bills and constitutional  
16 amendments and approximately 10,500 amendments, substitutes,  
17 conference committee reports, and miscellaneous drafts, with each  
18 attorney averaging approximately 430 drafts; joining in the fun are  
19 members of the division's top-notch legal editing team, who not  
20 only work on each draft produced by the agency but also get to  
21 experience a serious case of déjà vu in the performance of their  
22 engrossing and enrolling duties for the house; in that capacity,  
23 they have engrossed more than 1,350 and enrolled close to 1,000  
24 house bills and constitutional amendments and over 4,000 house  
25 concurrent and simple resolutions; and

26       WHEREAS, The research division of the TLC attracts all kinds,  
27 including policy wonks, wordsmiths, number crunchers, webmasters,

1 mapmakers, and database specialists; during session, members of  
2 this fast-paced shop have filled their days and nights answering  
3 nearly 400 research requests from the legislature and the public  
4 while also serving up a veritable smorgasbord of legislative  
5 goodies, producing several hundred senate amendment and conference  
6 committee side-by-side analyses in the waning days of the session;  
7 some 4,700 policy, honorary, and memorial resolutions; new-member  
8 orientation and other publications and websites; statistical and  
9 demographic research and data; election and geographic databases;  
10 and maps presenting darn near any topic one's heart may desire in a  
11 compelling visual format; and

12         WHEREAS, Working 'round the clock and on weekends to  
13 accommodate the needs of the legislature are the unsung heroes of  
14 the agency, the TLC's valiant document production staff; these  
15 plucky performers do the painstaking work required to expertly  
16 produce approximately 22,000 legislative drafts, as well as house  
17 official printings and numerous other documents each session,  
18 through a combination of the flying fingers of the folks in data  
19 transcription, the artful work of the graphics section, the  
20 astoundingly strong attention to detail of the proofreading  
21 section, the over-15-million sheets of paper printed by the council  
22 print shop staff, and the multitasking ministration of the document  
23 production nerve center, the members of the processing group who  
24 whip council drafts into final form and deliver them in huge stacks  
25 to Capitol offices each day, as well as receive, organize, process,  
26 and deliver house official printings; also central to the mix are  
27 the paper pushers of the division's document distribution section,

1 who distributed a whopping figure of more than 100,000 copies of  
2 bills and resolutions to the legislative community and the public;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Tying it all together is the vital staff of the  
5 administration division, whose invaluable contributions keep all  
6 systems go as the agency battens down the hatches for session;  
7 composed of the executive team and the human resources, accounting  
8 and purchasing, and staff services and facilities management  
9 personnel, the administration division seamlessly maintains the  
10 overall operations of the agency, assists in bringing on the 100  
11 extra people needed throughout the agency each session to handle  
12 the burgeoning workload, and manages the myriad everyday tasks  
13 required to ensure its staff the little things that mean so much in  
14 their home away from home, including a smoothly functioning  
15 physical plant, well-stocked supply stores, cleaner surroundings  
16 than employees can find in their own increasingly neglected homes,  
17 and countless other amenities without which the challenges of the  
18 session would indeed be more daunting; and

19 WHEREAS, Council staff strive to bring to their duties  
20 accuracy, creativity, knowledge, technical expertise, a skilled  
21 command of the English language, and unparalleled dedication, and  
22 when another regular session draws to a close, TLC employees may  
23 reflect with justifiable pride on the significant role they have  
24 played once again in serving the legislature, and thereby the  
25 citizens of this state, to the very best of their abilities; now,  
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas

H.R. No. 2455

1 Legislature hereby honor the staff of the Texas Legislative Council  
2 for their indispensable efforts in behalf of the legislative branch  
3 of government and the Lone Star State; and, be it further

4       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for the staff of the council as an expression of high  
6 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.