

By: Lucio

S.C.R. No. 43

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant
3 Responsibility Act of 1996 requires that the United States issue
4 machine-readable biometric Border Crossing Cards, also called
5 "laser visas," for use by Mexican nationals visiting the United
6 States, and today most Mexican visitors to our country receive a
7 laser visa; and

8 WHEREAS, Laser visa applicants undergo a thorough security
9 screening process before receiving a visa and provide
10 identification data that is encoded on the visa and that can be
11 verified by biometric authentication technologies, providing a
12 reliable system to allow temporary, fully screened visitors to
13 enter our country from Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, Although the length of stay allowed Mexican
15 nationals with laser visas was extended in 2004 by the United States
16 Congress from three to 30 days, the current law falls far short of
17 parity with Canadian visitors, who do not use laser visas and who
18 may stay in this country for up to six months; and

19 WHEREAS, Providing Mexican tourists, businesspersons, and
20 other short-term visitors the same opportunities to visit and do
21 business in the United States as their Canadian counterparts would
22 increase economic development in Texas border communities and
23 promote goodwill between the United States and Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, The Secure Border Crossing Card Entry Act of 2007,

1 introduced in the 110th Congress by Senator John Cornyn and
2 Representative Henry Cuellar (S. 422 and H.R. 702, respectively),
3 extends the length of stay for Mexican visitors using a laser visa
4 from 30 days to six months, or parity with Canadian visitors; and

5 WHEREAS, Extending the length of stay permitted Mexican
6 visitors using laser visas to full parity with Canadian visitors
7 supports the economic needs of Texas and successfully balances
8 national security with the benefits of legitimate trade and travel;
9 now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas,
11 Regular Session, hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the
12 United States to enact the Secure Border Crossing Card Entry Act of
13 2007; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
15 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
16 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
17 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
18 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
19 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
20 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.