

1-1 By: Lucio S.C.R. No. 43
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2007; March 27, 2007, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on International Relations and
1-4 Trade; May 9, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 9, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant
1-8 Responsibility Act of 1996 requires that the United States issue
1-9 machine-readable biometric Border Crossing Cards, also called
1-10 "laser visas," for use by Mexican nationals visiting the United
1-11 States, and today most Mexican visitors to our country receive a
1-12 laser visa; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Laser visa applicants undergo a thorough security
1-14 screening process before receiving a visa and provide
1-15 identification data that is encoded on the visa and that can be
1-16 verified by biometric authentication technologies, providing a
1-17 reliable system to allow temporary, fully screened visitors to
1-18 enter our country from Mexico; and

1-19 WHEREAS, Although the length of stay allowed Mexican
1-20 nationals with laser visas was extended in 2004 by the United States
1-21 Congress from three to 30 days, the current law falls far short of
1-22 parity with Canadian visitors, who do not use laser visas and who
1-23 may stay in this country for up to six months; and

1-24 WHEREAS, Providing Mexican tourists, businesspersons, and
1-25 other short-term visitors the same opportunities to visit and do
1-26 business in the United States as their Canadian counterparts would
1-27 increase economic development in Texas border communities and
1-28 promote goodwill between the United States and Mexico; and

1-29 WHEREAS, The Secure Border Crossing Card Entry Act of 2007,
1-30 introduced in the 110th Congress by Senator John Cornyn and
1-31 Representative Henry Cuellar (S. 422 and H.R. 702, respectively),
1-32 extends the length of stay for Mexican visitors using a laser visa
1-33 from 30 days to six months, or parity with Canadian visitors; and

1-34 WHEREAS, Extending the length of stay permitted Mexican
1-35 visitors using laser visas to full parity with Canadian visitors
1-36 supports the economic needs of Texas and successfully balances
1-37 national security with the benefits of legitimate trade and travel;
1-38 now, therefore, be it

1-39 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas,
1-40 Regular Session, hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the
1-41 United States to enact the Secure Border Crossing Card Entry Act of
1-42 2007; and, be it further

1-43 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-44 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-45 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
1-46 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
1-47 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
1-48 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
1-49 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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