

By: Carona

S.C.R. No. 45

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The REAL ID Act of 2005, passed by the United States
2 Congress as part of comprehensive homeland security legislation,
3 imposes stringent federal standards for the issuance of new state
4 driver's licenses and identification (ID) cards that will be
5 required to board an airplane or enter a federal building beginning
6 in 2013; according to an impact analysis by the National Governor's
7 Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the
8 American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, these
9 standards will cost the 50 states an estimated \$11 billion over five
10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, This price tag includes \$8.48 billion to comply with
12 provisions of the act requiring driver's license/ID card holders to
13 present original ID documents in person for verification before a
14 REAL ID-compliant license or card can be issued and \$2.53 billion
15 for independent verification of each ID document with its issuing
16 agency and incorporation of required security features into the
17 design of the new licenses and ID cards; and

18 WHEREAS, These federal requirements oblige the State of Texas
19 to verify and reissue more than 18.5 million driver's licenses and
20 ID cards, prompting the Texas Department of Public Safety to
21 request \$268.7 million for the 2008-2009 biennium to hire 737 new
22 full-time employees, open additional driver's license offices,
23 update card design and technology, and otherwise implement the REAL
24 ID Act; the agency expects ongoing REAL ID expenses to be \$101.3

1 million per year; and

2 WHEREAS, To meet these financial demands the Legislative
3 Budget Board recommends increasing driver's license and ID card
4 application and renewal fees up to \$15 above current amounts to
5 generate enough revenue to cover ongoing costs of the REAL ID Act
6 that will not be funded by the federal government; and

7 WHEREAS, Clearly, the \$40 million total congress has
8 appropriated to help the states comply with the REAL ID Act is
9 insufficient, and before Texas is forced to increase the price of
10 its driver's license or ID card by nearly 63 percent, congress
11 should act to provide the necessary funds to meet the objectives of
12 this important legislation; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby urge the Congress of the United States to fund the REAL ID
15 Act of 2005; and, be it further

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