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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Slavery was a morally abominable institution; and

WHEREAS, Slavery as practiced in the United States was especially brutalizing and dehumanizing, permitting as it did the denial to slaves of all human rights, including the right to marry and to maintain families; and

WHEREAS, Slavery was introduced into Texas by American settlers in the early 1820s and persisted until June, 1865, more than two years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Through 1865, the institution of slavery was protected by the constitution and laws of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The experience of slavery in Texas should be adequately reflected in the teaching of the state's history; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the suffering that they were forced to endure, slaves contributed greatly to the economic and cultural development of the state; and

WHEREAS, The contributions made by slaves should be adequately reflected in the teaching of the state's history; and

WHEREAS, The experiences and contributions of Hispanics and Native Americans in Texas should also receive appropriate recognition in the teaching of the state's history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas

1 hereby express profound regret for the role that the government of
2 Texas played in maintaining the institution of slavery; and, be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That, in order to document and publicize the
5 experience of slavery in Texas and to help the public appreciate the
6 contributions that slaves and former slaves made to the economic
7 and cultural development of the state throughout the 19th century
8 and beyond, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Historical
9 Commission, and other appropriate state agencies shall cooperate in
10 designing and developing public exhibits and/or acknowledgments at
11 the State Capitol, at the Bob Bullock Museum, and at certain public
12 institutions of higher education to recognize the contributions of
13 slaves in Texas history, with the initial public exhibits and
14 acknowledgments to be in place not later than December 31, 2008;
15 and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby request that the
17 lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives
18 create a joint interim committee to study and document the specific
19 contributions of African slaves and their descendants to the
20 economic and cultural development of the State of Texas; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That similar efforts be undertaken to document and
23 publicize the experiences and contributions of Hispanics and Native
24 Americans in Texas during the 18th and 19th centuries.