

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 73

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is home to a growing population
2 of residents for whom English is not the primary language, yet
3 English proficiency is critical to academic success and career
4 advancement; and

5 WHEREAS, The future growth of the Texas economy is highly
6 dependent on the availability of a well-educated workforce with
7 strong communication skills; the expansion of bilingual education
8 in public schools could be one means of raising the percentage of
9 workers proficient in English, but many parts of Texas are
10 experiencing a scarcity of bilingual education teachers; and

11 WHEREAS, English language literacy for all Texas children is
12 crucial, and as we seek to maintain our quality of life during the
13 current national downturn and prepare for greater prosperity in the
14 future, it is important to determine the best methods of developing
15 a strong, capable workforce with the communications skills required
16 for full participation in a dynamic world economy; now, therefore,
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
19 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby request the Texas Higher
20 Education Coordinating Board to study whether bilingual education
21 should be designated as a critical field in postsecondary education
22 and direct the board to explore the feasibility of providing
23 scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial assistance to
24 encourage college students in bilingual education to pursue

H.R. No. 73

1 teaching careers in the areas of Texas in greatest need of such
2 expertise; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for the commissioner of higher education and the chair of
5 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as an expression of
6 legislative will and intent by the Texas House of Representatives.