

By: Geren

H.C.R. No. 16

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Texas has become world famous for its many dinosaur  
2 discoveries; and

3 WHEREAS, To honor the prehistoric reptiles that long ago  
4 resided in the state, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 57 of the  
5 75th Texas Legislature named Brachiosaur Sauropod, *Pleurocoelus*,  
6 as the official Lone Star State Dinosaur; this designation was  
7 based on evidence that supported the presence of the dinosaur  
8 *Pleurocoelus* in Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Subsequently, the fossilized bones that were  
10 thought to be *Pleurocoelus* have been properly identified as a new  
11 species named *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; the identification was made by  
12 Peter Rose during his graduate studies at Southern Methodist  
13 University, and his findings have been widely accepted by other  
14 scientists since being published in 2007; and

15 WHEREAS, The dinosaur is named for the town of Paluxy in Hood  
16 County and for the Paluxy River, both of which are near the Jones  
17 Ranch site where the fossils of this species were discovered; and

18 WHEREAS, *Paluxysaurus jonesi* inhabited the earth  
19 approximately 95 to 112 million years ago, and these sauropods left  
20 behind a rich record of their existence; in addition to the bone  
21 fossils, evidence of the species exists in dinosaur footprints that  
22 have been found throughout the state; the most famous of these  
23 trackways runs along the Paluxy River and its tributaries, not far  
24 from the Jones Ranch site; many of these footprints can be viewed at

1 Dinosaur Valley State Park, near the town of Glen Rose; and

2       WHEREAS, The bones and tracks reveal the massive scale of  
3 *Paluxysaurus*; it is estimated that the dinosaur measured 70 feet  
4 long and 12 feet high at the shoulder, and weighed as much as 20  
5 tons; and

6       WHEREAS, *Paluxysaurus* continues to be the subject of  
7 important paleontological research; a major dinosaur project is  
8 ongoing at the Jones Ranch site, with the work being led by the Fort  
9 Worth Museum of Science and History in partnership with Southern  
10 Methodist University; moreover, a public exhibit of the bones of  
11 *Paluxysaurus jonesi* is planned for the museum; and

12       WHEREAS, Through the insightful work of Texas-based  
13 scientists, the tracks and bones of the large quadrupedal sauropod  
14 found in the Lone Star State are now clearly known to be those of the  
15 species *Paluxysaurus jonesi* rather than *Pleurocoelus*; and

16       WHEREAS, Given the importance of the paleontological  
17 discoveries that have taken place in Texas, it is indeed  
18 appropriate that the designation of our state dinosaur keep pace  
19 with the latest scientific research; now, therefore, be it

20       RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
21 hereby designate *Paluxysaurus jonesi* as the official Lone Star  
22 State Dinosaur, replacing Brachiosaur Sauropod, *Pleurocoelus*.