

1-1 By: Geren (Senate Sponsor - Nelson) H.C.R. No. 16
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2009;
1-3 May 8, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Government Organization; May 19, 2009, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 19, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Texas has become world famous for its many dinosaur
1-8 discoveries; and

1-9 WHEREAS, To honor the prehistoric reptiles that long ago
1-10 resided in the state, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 57 of the
1-11 75th Texas Legislature named Brachiosaur Sauropod, *Pleurocoelus*,
1-12 as the official Lone Star State Dinosaur; this designation was
1-13 based on evidence that supported the presence of the dinosaur
1-14 *Pleurocoelus* in Texas; and

1-15 WHEREAS, Subsequently, the fossilized bones that were
1-16 thought to be *Pleurocoelus* have been properly identified as a new
1-17 species named *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; the identification was made by
1-18 Peter Rose during his graduate studies at Southern Methodist
1-19 University, and his findings have been widely accepted by other
1-20 scientists since being published in 2007; and

1-21 WHEREAS, The dinosaur is named for the town of Paluxy in Hood
1-22 County and for the Paluxy River, both of which are near the Jones
1-23 Ranch site where the fossils of this species were discovered; and

1-24 WHEREAS, *Paluxysaurus jonesi* inhabited the earth
1-25 approximately 95 to 112 million years ago, and these sauropods left
1-26 behind a rich record of their existence; in addition to the bone
1-27 fossils, evidence of the species exists in dinosaur footprints that
1-28 have been found throughout the state; the most famous of these
1-29 trackways runs along the Paluxy River and its tributaries, not far
1-30 from the Jones Ranch site; many of these footprints can be viewed at
1-31 Dinosaur Valley State Park, near the town of Glen Rose; and

1-32 WHEREAS, The bones and tracks reveal the massive scale of
1-33 *Paluxysaurus*; it is estimated that the dinosaur measured 70 feet
1-34 long and 12 feet high at the shoulder, and weighed as much as 20
1-35 tons; and

1-36 WHEREAS, *Paluxysaurus* continues to be the subject of
1-37 important paleontological research; a major dinosaur project is
1-38 ongoing at the Jones Ranch site, with the work being led by the Fort
1-39 Worth Museum of Science and History in partnership with Southern
1-40 Methodist University; moreover, a public exhibit of the bones of
1-41 *Paluxysaurus jonesi* is planned for the museum; and

1-42 WHEREAS, Through the insightful work of Texas-based
1-43 scientists, the tracks and bones of the large quadrupedal sauropod
1-44 found in the Lone Star State are now clearly known to be those of the
1-45 species *Paluxysaurus jonesi* rather than *Pleurocoelus*; and

1-46 WHEREAS, Given the importance of the paleontological
1-47 discoveries that have taken place in Texas, it is indeed
1-48 appropriate that the designation of our state dinosaur keep pace
1-49 with the latest scientific research; now, therefore, be it

1-50 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
1-51 hereby designate *Paluxysaurus jonesi* as the official Lone Star
1-52 State Dinosaur, replacing Brachiosaur Sauropod, *Pleurocoelus*.

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