

By: Kuempel

H.C.R. No. 220

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The diversity of the Texas economy has helped the
2 state weather the turbulence of the recession, but as the national
3 downturn deepens and as prudent planning for the future becomes
4 more vital, communities in the Lone Star State are seeking ways to
5 ensure that they have sufficient resources to continue to provide
6 necessary services; economic studies indicate that the gaming
7 industry has the potential to bring billions of tax dollars into
8 Texas while creating jobs and boosting local economies; and

9 WHEREAS, Estimates of Texans' annual discretionary spending
10 for gaming range from \$3 billion to \$6 billion, but the tax dollars
11 generated currently accrue to Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and
12 other states with highly developed gaming industries; and

13 WHEREAS, Calculations of the annual tax revenues that Texas
14 could earn from gaming are between \$3 billion and \$4.5 billion when
15 factoring in the construction of upscale casinos, the licensing of
16 gambling at the state's Indian reservations, and the installation
17 of slot machines at existing licensed horse and greyhound
18 racetracks; the annual economic impact of such development could
19 reach \$50 billion; and

20 WHEREAS, Communities with racetracks are presently losing
21 business to other states where racetracks offer consumers
22 alternative gaming opportunities, and the state's racehorse
23 industry is losing business to competitors in states where income
24 from video lottery terminals supports breeding programs and higher

1 purses; and

2 WHEREAS, Development of resort casinos would exert an
3 economic stimulus in surrounding communities initially through
4 construction employment and later through employment not only at
5 the casinos but also in the retail, restaurant, recreation, and
6 other tourist businesses that would soon flourish; and

7 WHEREAS, In order to maximize the economic benefits of the
8 gaming industry to the state and to local communities, Texas must
9 develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy that considers such
10 aspects as the areas of the state that would be most suitable for
11 specific types of gaming facilities, the types of gaming that would
12 be of economic benefit to individual communities, and the types of
13 gaming that would provide maximum financial benefit to the state;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The vast potential for new tax revenue streams and
16 economic stimulus demands a careful evaluation of the business
17 environments in individual communities and of the direct and
18 indirect benefits of the gaming industry to those communities and
19 to the state; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
21 hereby respectfully request the lieutenant governor and the speaker
22 of the house of representatives to create a joint interim committee
23 to study the gaming industry in Texas and its potential direct and
24 indirect economic impact on specific markets and on the state as a
25 whole; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
27 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim

1 committees as the 81st Legislature may adopt; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including
3 findings and recommendations, to the 82nd Texas Legislature when it
4 convenes in January 2011.