

By: Branch

H.C.R. No. 288

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Tuition and fees at the state's public four-year
2 universities have increased materially in recent years; and

3 WHEREAS, Texas families, already struggling to meet the costs
4 of higher education, now see college slipping further from their
5 reach as the global recession takes a toll on state and local
6 economies; and

7 WHEREAS, A college education is directly linked to one's
8 future employment opportunities; people with a college education
9 earn larger salaries and see greater financial benefits over their
10 lifetimes, in turn contributing significantly to the state's
11 economic base; unpredictable tuition hikes, however, make it much
12 more difficult for young people to plan for their education, and as
13 a result, many will delay college or skip it altogether, while those
14 who enroll will carry larger debt loads than ever; and

15 WHEREAS, The current economic crisis is limiting students'
16 access to additional funds from loans, family assistance, and
17 part-time jobs, but the continuing vitality of Texas depends on an
18 educated population and workforce; temporarily limiting tuition
19 and student fees at our state universities will help ensure that
20 students are able to obtain a college education, thereby
21 contributing to a diverse and robust economy throughout the state,
22 both now and in the future; and

23 WHEREAS, The importance of higher education to the economic
24 and cultural vitality of this state dictates that any limitation on

1 increases in tuition and student fees be implemented in a manner
2 that does not unduly restrict the quality and excellence of the
3 state's universities; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
5 hereby direct the governing board of each general academic teaching
6 institution to make every effort to ensure that the total academic
7 costs, including tuition, mandatory academic fees, and any other
8 academic-related general fees and college course fees, charged to a
9 resident undergraduate student for the 2010-2011, 2011-2012, or
10 2012-2013 academic year do not exceed the total academic costs that
11 the institution would have charged such a student enrolled in the
12 same courses in the preceding academic year by more than the greater
13 of 3.95 percent or \$280; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby direct those governing
15 boards to make every effort to ensure that the total academic costs
16 charged to a resident undergraduate student for the 2013-2014
17 academic year do not exceed the total academic costs the
18 institution would have charged such a student enrolled in the same
19 courses in the 2012-2013 academic year by more than the greater of:

20 (1) 3.95 percent; or

21 (2) the average of the following:

22 (A) the average percentage increase, if any, in
23 the consumer price index for each of the three preceding calendar
24 years as compared to the consumer price index for the year preceding
25 each of those years; and

26 (B) the average percentage increase, if any, in
27 an appropriate higher education price index for each of the three

1 preceding calendar years as compared to that higher education price
2 index for the year preceding each of those years; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
4 copy of this resolution to the commissioner of higher education and
5 to the presidents and members of the boards of regents of general
6 academic teaching institutions throughout Texas.