

By: Shapleigh

S.C.R. No. 15

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The impact of our nation's economic crisis has begun
2 to take a toll on Texas; Comptroller Susan Combs estimates that
3 2010-2011 revenues will suffer a \$9.1 billion shortfall,
4 representing a projected 10.5 percent decline from the current
5 budget; and

6 WHEREAS, Texas suffered the loss of 25,700 jobs in December
7 2008, and the state has seen a rise in unemployment claims over the
8 past year; the comptroller projects that another 111,000 jobs will
9 be lost in the coming months; and

10 WHEREAS, Spending cuts will affect not only education,
11 transportation, and other vital state services; state spending cuts
12 also undermine potential growth by removing dollars that would
13 otherwise be spent on goods and services produced or delivered in
14 the state; and

15 WHEREAS, The federal government is developing a stimulus
16 package aimed at jump-starting the faltering economy; under the
17 bill known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
18 Texas could claim at least \$27 billion in federal funds; the
19 stimulus plan would send hundreds of millions of dollars to
20 cash-strapped school districts and provide \$5 billion to stanch the
21 flow of red ink from the state's Medicaid program; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition, the stimulus package would inject money
23 into our economy by assisting the ranks of the unemployed, which are
24 expected to reach a level of approximately 6.6 percent in

1 2010-2011; the state would receive an additional \$846 million for
2 unemployment insurance, and Texans losing jobs after September 1,
3 2008, would receive a subsidy to help them keep their previous
4 employer-sponsored health insurance; and

5 WHEREAS, The Texas economy can also benefit by provisions in
6 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 designed to
7 preserve and create jobs, to provide investment in technology,
8 transportation, energy efficiency, environmental protection, and
9 infrastructure, and to minimize or avert reductions in essential
10 services; and

11 WHEREAS, With oil and gas prices and exports declining, Texas
12 can expect to feel the effects of this recession more sharply; it is
13 essential that the state quickly take advantage of all stimulus
14 funds available from the federal government in order to lessen the
15 current impact of the economic downturn and prepare the foundation
16 for long-term growth and prosperity when the national economy
17 recovers; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby express its intent that the state accept federal economic
20 stimulus funds appropriated under the American Recovery and
21 Reinvestment Act of 2009 or any other such legislation that
22 allocates funds to our great state to ensure investment in jobs,
23 infrastructure, technology, energy, education, and health, thus
24 making certain that Texans, too, can participate in our nation's
25 economic recovery.