

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 189

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Section 5(b), Article III, Texas Constitution,  
2 reads:

3 "When convened in regular Session, the first thirty days  
4 thereof shall be devoted to the introduction of bills and  
5 resolutions, acting upon emergency appropriations, passing upon  
6 the confirmation of the recess appointees of the Governor and such  
7 emergency matters as may be submitted by the Governor in special  
8 messages to the Legislature. During the succeeding thirty days of  
9 the regular session of the Legislature the various committees of  
10 each House shall hold hearings to consider all bills and  
11 resolutions and other matters then pending; and such emergency  
12 matters as may be submitted by the Governor. During the remainder  
13 of the session the Legislature shall act upon such bills and  
14 resolutions as may be then pending and upon such emergency matters  
15 as may be submitted by the Governor in special messages to the  
16 Legislature."; and

17 WHEREAS, It is specifically provided in Section 5(c), Article  
18 III, Texas Constitution, that either house may otherwise determine  
19 its order of business by an affirmative vote of four-fifths of its  
20 membership; and

21 WHEREAS, Texas is facing the largest revenue shortfall in the  
22 state's history; and

23 WHEREAS, The proposed cuts to the state's budget in House  
24 Bill 1 (82nd Texas Legislature) include the elimination of

1 prekindergarten programs that would affect 192,000 children; a  
2 \$1.57 billion reduction in payments to nursing facilities, ensuring  
3 that the state will not keep its promise to the elder population;  
4 the termination of 100,000 educational jobs that will cripple the  
5 state's economy and schools; a drastic reduction of \$1.15 billion  
6 for the Texas Closing the Gaps Program that will result in the  
7 dreams of many Texans who aspire to higher education being  
8 deferred; and the eradication of four community colleges that will  
9 change the fate of the hundreds of students at those schools; and

10 WHEREAS, The Governor has identified five emergency items to  
11 be considered by the 82nd Texas Legislature but has failed to  
12 acknowledge either the largest deficit in the state's recent  
13 history or that the deficit is the largest current threat to the  
14 state's prosperity and to the fulfillment of the promises made by  
15 the legislature to the state's citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives acknowledges the  
17 challenges Texas faces with resolving the state's economic troubles  
18 and revenue shortfall; as both Democrats and Republicans, the  
19 members of the House of Representatives recognize the state budget  
20 as the single most important legislative matter to be considered by  
21 the 82nd Texas Legislature; and

22 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives  
23 acknowledge that the members are bound by duty and service to the  
24 constituents of the members' legislative districts to put all other  
25 matters aside and devote the full attention and energies of the  
26 House of Representatives to mastering and resolving the state's  
27 budget challenge; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
2 Legislature, by an affirmative vote of four-fifths of its  
3 membership, That the order of its business for the regular session  
4 is hereby determined to be otherwise than set forth in Section 5(b),  
5 Article III, Texas Constitution, and declared to be specifically as  
6 set forth in the permanent rules of the House of Representatives of  
7 the 82nd Legislature, except that during the first 60 days of the  
8 regular session the House may not consider any bill before the  
9 general appropriations bill, and may consider any other bill after  
10 that bill is considered on second reading in the manner provided by  
11 the permanent rules of the House of Representatives.