

1-1 By: Williams, et al. S.C.R. No. 36
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 24, 2011; March 28, 2011, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Transportation and Homeland
1-4 Security; April 12, 2011, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 12, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is charged with protecting more
1-8 than 1,200 miles of land and some 367 miles of coastline along the
1-9 Mexican border, a job that has become increasingly difficult; and

1-10 WHEREAS, On September 25, 2006, Officer Rodney Johnson of the
1-11 Houston Police Department was fatally shot during a routine traffic
1-12 stop in Houston by a criminal illegal immigrant who had been
1-13 previously deported and had once again entered the country; and

1-14 WHEREAS, Two years later, on November 22, 2008, two employees
1-15 from the Texas Tech Medical School were gunned down in Juarez,
1-16 Mexico, while participating in a funeral procession for a family
1-17 member; less than a year after that, bullets from a gun battle in
1-18 Matamoros, Mexico, grazed a campus building at The University of
1-19 Texas at Brownsville, and on June 29, 2010, stray bullets from a
1-20 deadly gun battle in Juarez struck the El Paso City Hall; and

1-21 WHEREAS, The Texas-Mexico border was especially violent in
1-22 late summer 2010; on August 21, a portion of U.S. Highway 85 had to
1-23 be shut down when gunfire from Juarez reached The University of
1-24 Texas at El Paso and at least one bullet pierced Bell Hall; then, on
1-25 the 11th of September, Mexican drug cartel members brazenly shot at
1-26 patrolling United States law enforcement officers, and on the 30th
1-27 of that month, members of a Mexican cartel viciously murdered David
1-28 Michael Hartley, who was skiing on Falcon Lake with his wife; and

1-29 WHEREAS, Already, 2011 is shaping up to see more of the same;
1-30 on January 14, an armed man from the Mexican side of the border
1-31 fired a high-powered rifle at road workers in Hudspeth County, and
1-32 later that month, on January 26, Nancy Shuman Davis, an American
1-33 missionary, was driving with her husband about 60 miles south of the
1-34 border when she was shot and killed by gunmen; in February, the
1-35 United States lost an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent,
1-36 Jaime Zapata, who was assigned to the Immigration and Customs
1-37 Enforcement attache office in Mexico City; he and another
1-38 Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, who was injured, were
1-39 attacked by unknown assailants while the agents were driving
1-40 between Monterrey and Mexico City; and

1-41 WHEREAS, All of these events, as well as others that have not
1-42 been cited or are not yet known, exemplify the inadequacy of federal
1-43 border security efforts; the State of Texas has attempted to
1-44 address the problem by adding 172 commissioned law enforcement
1-45 officers to the border, purchasing five state-of-the-art
1-46 helicopters, conducting border security surge operations, and
1-47 paying more than \$79 million for overtime, training, equipment, and
1-48 technology for local law enforcement officers in just the last four
1-49 years; and

1-50 WHEREAS, Since 2006, law enforcement agencies working
1-51 together in Texas have seized more than \$6.8 billion in illegal
1-52 drugs and more than \$128 million in cash, along with over 2,600
1-53 stolen firearms and weapons and approximately 2,230 stolen
1-54 vehicles, all related to drug and human trafficking; and

1-55 WHEREAS, Texas has repeatedly asked the federal government to
1-56 send more border security resources to this state, requesting
1-57 specifically an increase in manpower of 3,000 border patrol agents
1-58 and the deployment of 1,000 Title 32 National Guard troops and at
1-59 least one Texas-based and dedicated unmanned aircraft like those
1-60 being used in North Dakota and Arizona; and

1-61 WHEREAS, At an average salary of \$60,000 a year, the cost of
1-62 tripling the number of border patrol agents along our border with
1-63 Mexico would cost the federal government less than \$2.5 billion,
1-64 while the estimated costs of illegal immigration exceed that amount

2-1 in Texas alone; and
2-2 WHEREAS, Texas taxpayers have spent billions compensating
2-3 for the lack of federal resources provided to the state; in just one
2-4 example, Texas prisons house nearly 12,000 violent offenders that
2-5 claim foreign citizenship, and the state bears the entire cost of
2-6 housing and prosecuting those offenders; at an average cost of \$47
2-7 per day, that is over \$200 million per year that the federal
2-8 government's failure to secure our border is costing Texans; at the
2-9 very least, the federal government should be responsible for the
2-10 cost of housing illegal immigrants who have been convicted of
2-11 committing a crime in the State of Texas and the state should be
2-12 reimbursed for its recent expenses in this regard; and

2-13 WHEREAS, Moreover, despite Texas' repeated requests that the
2-14 federal government cease and desist transferring illegal aliens
2-15 from other parts of the country to southwest Texas, the federal
2-16 government continues to do so as part of the federal Alien Transfer
2-17 and Exit Program; and

2-18 WHEREAS, Worse yet, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
2-19 director John Morton released a memo stating that the agency did not
2-20 have enough resources to deport all apprehended illegal aliens and
2-21 instructed Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees to
2-22 prioritize the apprehension and removal of aliens, effectively
2-23 giving many of them a free pass and handicapping local law
2-24 enforcement; and

2-25 WHEREAS, The inability of Washington to develop some form of
2-26 comprehensive immigration reform that might address this border
2-27 security problem puts an unfair and unreasonable burden on the
2-28 entire state, but in particular on Texas border communities, which
2-29 already struggle to keep their streets and neighborhoods safe from
2-30 spillover gang violence; and

2-31 WHEREAS, The federal government imposes immigration laws on
2-32 our state while withholding both the funding and the manpower
2-33 necessary to effectively enforce those laws, and this broken system
2-34 has punished Texas taxpayers for far too long; now, therefore, be it
2-35

2-36 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
2-37 hereby urge the members of the Texas congressional delegation to
2-38 provide to the legislature a cost analysis of the exact funding
2-39 necessary for full enforcement of all immigration laws in Texas and
2-40 to immediately report to the legislature as to the status of that
2-41 funding; and, be it further

2-42 RESOLVED, That the lieutenant governor of Texas and the
2-43 speaker of the Texas House of Representatives send a delegation of
2-44 members from both chambers to meet with members of Congress and
2-45 members of the executive branch to discuss the ongoing border
2-46 security crisis; and, be it further

2-47 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2-48 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
2-49 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
2-50 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
2-51 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
2-52 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
2-53 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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