

By: King of Taylor

H.C.R. No. 17

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a
2 wide-ranging civil rights law, prohibits discrimination based on
3 disability under certain circumstances; and

4 WHEREAS, Under Title III of the ADA, no individual may be
5 discriminated against on the basis of disability with regard to the
6 full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, or
7 accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person
8 who owns, leases, or operates a place of public accommodation; and

9 WHEREAS, The Texas State Capitol building clearly falls into
10 the category of "public accommodations," which encompasses
11 everything from hotels and restaurants to educational facilities
12 and recreation spots; moreover, it is in the interest of the state
13 to ensure that its most public building is easily accessible to all
14 citizens, including people with disabilities, veterans, parents
15 with small children, and the elderly; and

16 WHEREAS, Currently, persons whose mobility is impaired are
17 limited to entering the Capitol through the north doors, a
18 limitation that causes added inconvenience for people who park in
19 the visitor's parking garage and that can result in delays when
20 large numbers of people are coming to the Capitol; and

21 WHEREAS, There may be other features that present additional
22 barriers for Texans who want to meet their legislators or attend
23 legislative proceedings, and an assessment of Capitol access is
24 warranted; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas,
2 2nd Called Session, hereby direct the State Preservation Board to
3 conduct a study on improving access to the Capitol building for
4 persons with mobility impairments and to prepare a report,
5 including findings and recommendations, within six months of the
6 passage of this resolution; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the board include in its report a list of
8 enhancements that can be accomplished with existing resources, as
9 well as a list of those improvements that require the appropriation
10 of additional funds, and that on completion of the report, the board
11 immediately commence implementation of those enhancements for
12 which resources are already available.