

By: Lozano

H.C.R. No. 72

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Economic activity in the Texas coastal region has an
2 enormous impact on the economy of the state as a whole; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, marine cargo and vessel traffic alone was
4 estimated to support approximately \$277.6 billion in total economic
5 activity along the Texas coast; the region is crucial to the energy
6 industry, and its tourism sector and institutions of higher
7 education are also engines for growth; and

8 WHEREAS, The continued prosperity of the coastal region
9 depends on its ability to meet a number of challenges and
10 opportunities on the horizon; while the crude oil market has been
11 volatile, with prices falling precipitously between July 2014 and
12 January 2015, the state's rapid population growth bodes well for
13 development; the coastal region is anticipating a tremendous
14 increase in maritime traffic following the opening of the Panama
15 Canal expansion, expected in 2016; and

16 WHEREAS, Careful planning is required in order to maintain
17 and improve the global competitiveness of the coastal region in an
18 era of great change, and the state has a powerful interest in
19 ensuring that investments in infrastructure and other measures are
20 based on comprehensive data and a thorough understanding of the
21 issues likely to confront the area in the years ahead; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house

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1 of representatives to provide for a joint interim study regarding
2 economic development in the Texas coastal region; and, be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
5 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim
6 committees as the 84th Legislature may adopt.