

By: Goldman

H.C.R. No. 97

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Our citizens deserve the freedom to pursue their
2 chosen career paths without unnecessary interference from the
3 government, but occupational licensure imposes undue burdens on
4 many aspiring professionals and disincentives on working in
5 numerous industries; and

6 WHEREAS, The list of occupations subjected to these
7 regulations continues to expand, with approximately 150 trades and
8 professions needing a state-issued license; while licensure is
9 often justified in fields that affect health, safety, and public
10 welfare, it too frequently imposes onerous fees and requires
11 state-administered examinations even in areas in which such
12 concerns are absent; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to limiting the potential success of
14 individuals, licensure negatively impacts our economy by reducing
15 job growth, decreasing competition, discouraging innovation, and
16 hindering business investment; and

17 WHEREAS, By repealing specific occupational licensure
18 requirements and reforming general licensing laws, the government
19 can help advance a free market system that creates boundless
20 opportunities for individuals and furthers the economic prosperity
21 of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
24 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to conduct a

1 study on occupational licensing and issues for reform; and, be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the study specifically examine:

4 (1) abolishing criminal penalties;

5 (2) identifying health and safety requirements;

6 (3) increasing reciprocity for individuals licensed
7 in other jurisdictions;

8 (4) eliminating grandfathering practices;

9 (5) linking licensure requirements to the goal of
10 protecting the health and safety of the public; and

11 (6) the potential benefit of enacting a blanket
12 opt-out exemption for all occupations unrelated to health and
13 safety, as long as exempted workers disclose that they are
14 operating without a state-issued license; and, be it further

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