

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Shaka Smart was named the head basketball coach of
2 The University of Texas at Austin on April 2, 2015, and his arrival
3 signals the start of an exciting new era for the Longhorns; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Madison, Wisconsin, Mr. Smart proved
5 himself a gifted athlete at a young age; he lettered in basketball
6 for three years at Oregon High School, and he went on to play for
7 four years as a point guard at Kenyon College, becoming the school's
8 single-season and career assists leader and being selected for the
9 All-Conference Team and the *USA Today* All-USA Academic Team; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Smart began his coaching career as an assistant
11 at California University of Pennsylvania in 1999 and was
12 subsequently appointed the director of basketball operations at the
13 University of Dayton; he later served as an assistant coach at the
14 University of Akron, Clemson University, and the University of
15 Florida before being hired as head coach at Virginia Commonwealth
16 University in 2009; and

17 WHEREAS, During his six-year tenure at VCU, he instituted the
18 team's "havoc" style of play, characterized by full-court pressure
19 and transition offense; he compiled a stellar record of 163 wins and
20 56 losses and guided the team to a .700 or better winning percentage
21 in each of his seasons at the helm; moreover, the squad rose to
22 national prominence by clinching the 2010 College Basketball
23 Invitational championship and advancing to the 2011 NCAA Division I
24 Final Four after entering the tournament as a number 11 seed; and

1 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Smart is blessed with
2 the love and support of his wife of nine years, the former Maya
3 Payne, and he takes tremendous pride in their daughter, Zora Sanae;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Shaka Smart will now put his extensive experience to
6 work in guiding the UT basketball program, and the university's
7 students, alumni, and supporters are justifiably excited to welcome
8 this proven leader into the Longhorn family; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize Shaka Smart as an honorary Texan and
11 extend to him sincere best wishes for success in the years ahead;
12 and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Coach Smart as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.

Israel

H.R. No. 2367

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2367 was adopted by the House on May 21, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House