

By: Israel

H.R. No. 2367

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.