

By: Anchia

H.C.R. No. 19

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Since 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement
2 has transformed economic relations among the United States, Mexico,
3 and Canada; and

4 WHEREAS, The accord has driven unprecedented integration
5 among the economies, helping to more than triple regional trade and
6 encouraging a dramatic rise in cross-border investment; economists
7 largely agree that NAFTA has enhanced prosperity in all three
8 countries, as regional trade increased sharply over the first two
9 decades, from roughly \$290 billion in 1993 to more than \$1.1
10 trillion in 2016; as many as 14 million U.S. jobs rely on this
11 trade; and

12 WHEREAS, The economic effects of NAFTA on Texas are
13 particularly profound, due to its proximity to Mexico, which is the
14 state's top export market; in 2015, exports from Texas to Mexico
15 totaled \$92.5 billion, and as of 2014, 382,000 Texas jobs depended
16 on cross-border trade; moreover, the availability of lower-priced
17 goods from Mexico has had a favorable influence on the state's cost
18 of living; and

19 WHEREAS, The Texas economy would be negatively impacted
20 should the United States withdraw from NAFTA; it is vital that Texas
21 protect its economic interests; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas,
23 1st Called Session, hereby request the lieutenant governor and the
24 speaker of the House of Representatives to create a joint interim

1 committee to study the impact on Texas of any proposed
2 modifications to NAFTA being considered; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
4 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim
5 committees as the 85th Legislature may adopt.