

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, May 5, 2017, marks the 25th anniversary of the
2 unconventional ratification of the 27th Amendment to the United
3 States Constitution; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the original 12 amendments submitted,
5 pursuant to Article V, to the state legislatures for ratification
6 by the First U.S. Congress, in 1789, the 27th Amendment was crafted
7 by James Madison of Virginia while he served as a member of the U.S.
8 House of Representatives; by the end of 1791, 10 of the 12
9 amendments, known collectively as the Bill of Rights, had been
10 approved by the requisite three-fourths of the states; the other
11 two amendments, one of which pertained to congressional
12 compensation, fell by the wayside; and

13 WHEREAS, The congressional compensation measure stipulated
14 that "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the
15 Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election
16 of Representatives shall have intervened"; the amendment would thus
17 prevent federal lawmakers from immediately benefiting from any pay
18 raise they might give themselves, as every representative--and a
19 third of the senators--would have to win reelection before they
20 could realize a gain; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1982, a student at The University of Texas at
22 Austin, Gregory Watson, learned about this unratified
23 still-pending amendment and concluded that it was eminently
24 relevant, Congress having granted itself a substantial pay raise in

1 1978 and a special tax break in 1981; he determined that the
2 amendment remained viable, and he committed himself to the
3 laborious mission of securing its approval; the amendment gradually
4 garnered wide public support, and with his dedicated efforts, it
5 worked its way through a succession of state legislatures for a
6 decade; on May 5, 1992, Alabama became the 38th state to ratify the
7 centuries-old measure, thus securing its incorporation as the 27th
8 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution some 202 years after it was
9 proposed by a Congress that was conducting its business in New York
10 City; and

11 WHEREAS, A quarter century after its ratification, the 27th
12 Amendment remains the most recent amendment to our nation's
13 constitution, and it is indeed fitting that its unusual history and
14 its significance be recognized; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the
17 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Klick

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 137 was adopted by the House on May 5, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 137 was adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: 31 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor