

1-1 By: Klick (Senate Sponsor - Burton) H.C.R. No. 137
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2017;
 1-3 May 11, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Administration; May 23, 2017, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 23, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, May 5, 2017, marks the 25th anniversary of the
 1-17 unconventional ratification of the 27th Amendment to the United
 1-18 States Constitution; and

1-19 WHEREAS, One of the original 12 amendments submitted,
 1-20 pursuant to Article V, to the state legislatures for ratification
 1-21 by the First U.S. Congress, in 1789, the 27th Amendment was crafted
 1-22 by James Madison of Virginia while he served as a member of the U.S.
 1-23 House of Representatives; by the end of 1791, 10 of the 12
 1-24 amendments, known collectively as the Bill of Rights, had been
 1-25 approved by the requisite three-fourths of the states; the other
 1-26 two amendments, one of which pertained to congressional
 1-27 compensation, fell by the wayside; and

1-28 WHEREAS, The congressional compensation measure stipulated
 1-29 that "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the
 1-30 Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election
 1-31 of Representatives shall have intervened"; the amendment would thus
 1-32 prevent federal lawmakers from immediately benefiting from any pay
 1-33 raise they might give themselves, as every representative--and a
 1-34 third of the senators--would have to win reelection before they
 1-35 could realize a gain; and

1-36 WHEREAS, In 1982, a student at The University of Texas at
 1-37 Austin, Gregory Watson, learned about this unratified
 1-38 still-pending amendment and concluded that it was eminently
 1-39 relevant, Congress having granted itself a substantial pay raise in
 1-40 1978 and a special tax break in 1981; he determined that the
 1-41 amendment remained viable, and he committed himself to the
 1-42 laborious mission of securing its approval; the amendment gradually
 1-43 garnered wide public support, and with his dedicated efforts, it
 1-44 worked its way through a succession of state legislatures for a
 1-45 decade; on May 5, 1992, Alabama became the 38th state to ratify the
 1-46 centuries-old measure, thus securing its incorporation as the 27th
 1-47 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution some 202 years after it was
 1-48 proposed by a Congress that was conducting its business in New York
 1-49 City; and

1-50 WHEREAS, A quarter century after its ratification, the 27th
 1-51 Amendment remains the most recent amendment to our nation's
 1-52 constitution, and it is indeed fitting that its unusual history and
 1-53 its significance be recognized; now, therefore, be it

1-54 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
 1-55 hereby commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the
 1-56 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

1-57 * * * * *