

By: King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 2179

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For more than a century, the Legislative Reference  
2 Library has provided invaluable assistance to Texas lawmakers; and

3           WHEREAS, Signaling to the world that the Texas Legislature  
4 early on understood the value of a reference library, leaders of  
5 this state reserved a special place at the core of the 1888 Capitol  
6 to house this vital resource for current and future generations;  
7 the Legislative Reference Library was established on the second  
8 floor in the north wing to assist members of the legislature and  
9 their staff, and its resources are also available to the lieutenant  
10 governor, speaker, and their staffs, to the staff of the governor's  
11 office, to legislative officers, agencies, and committees, to state  
12 agencies and commissions, to librarians and legislators from other  
13 states, to members of the press, and to Texas citizens; and

14           WHEREAS, The tools may change through the decades, but the  
15 need for information endures, and the library's electronic data  
16 systems currently expedite the delivery of knowledge to the  
17 legislative community in both direct and indirect ways; the  
18 creation, compilation, and utilization of information in a reliable  
19 and timely fashion are provided today in a manner unimaginable by  
20 the legislature in 1888, yet the importance of the LRL's continued  
21 proximity to the seat of Texas government was reaffirmed during the  
22 restoration of the Capitol in the 1990s, thus underscoring the  
23 intrinsic value of this treasured institution; and

24           WHEREAS, The effectiveness of the library would not be

1 possible without the talented people who staff it; these  
2 individuals provide in-depth analyses of legislation from all 50  
3 states, respond to historical legislative queries, and create ad  
4 hoc legislative statistical reports for staff in the speaker's and  
5 lieutenant governor's offices; during legislative sessions, the  
6 library plays an integral part in the legislative process; staff  
7 develop electronic records in the Texas Legislative Tracking System  
8 for each bill or resolution filed and furnish real-time information  
9 to the legislative community, to executive agencies, and to  
10 citizens of this state through such proprietary applications as  
11 TLIS and TLO; and

12       WHEREAS, Stationed on the floor of the house and senate  
13 chambers, library staff enter legislative actions as they occur,  
14 and they work closely with the senate and house parliamentarians,  
15 senate and house journal clerks, chief clerk of the house,  
16 secretary of the senate, and their staffs to ensure that records are  
17 accurate and complete; library staff members are also responsible  
18 for assigning and entering subject terms and companion  
19 relationships, and they review enrolled legislation for effective  
20 dates of each measure; in addition, the library operates a  
21 toll-free bill status hotline; and

22       WHEREAS, The LRL maintains the most comprehensive physical  
23 repository of information relating to the Texas Legislature,  
24 including original legislative bill files from the 63rd Session to  
25 present, historical and current publications of legislative  
26 committees, state agencies, and institutions of higher education,  
27 legislative legal resources, journals, law reviews, and

1 periodicals; a circulating collection of materials is also made  
2 available to the legislative community; and

3       WHEREAS, Each business day, the library compiles select  
4 articles from newspapers statewide for the legislative community,  
5 and it generates weekly listings of important journal articles and  
6 quarterly listings of newsworthy additions to the library's  
7 collection; the LRL strives to provide accurate and up-to-date  
8 legislative information electronically through a number of  
9 databases; the Texas Appointment System contains information on  
10 members of state councils, boards, and committees appointed by the  
11 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker; the Legislative  
12 Archive System holds the only electronic version of original  
13 legislative bill files and documentation, while the Index to  
14 Sections Affected is the sole source of information detailing the  
15 proposed statutory effect of bills; moreover, the library maintains  
16 Texas Legislators: Past & Present, highlighting legislative  
17 membership information from 1846 to today, as well as a legislative  
18 reports database covering that same period, and it archives  
19 gubernatorial executive orders, messages, and proclamations; and

20       WHEREAS, Guided skillfully by director/librarian Mary Camp,  
21 the LRL staff includes assistant director/librarian Catherine  
22 Wusterhausen, administrative/legislative staff Leah Alejandro,  
23 Donald Brower, Elizabeth Buchanan, Emilie Jezisek, Michelle  
24 Martinez, Kali Palmer, Julia Walden, and Jay Young, clipping  
25 service staffers Vincent Cowan, David Wood, and Karen Wright, and  
26 librarians Ali Dzienkowski, Cassandra Gallegos, Sally Harlow,  
27 Melanie Harshman, Karen McBurney, Rona Mertink, Amanda Norman, Kay

1 Schlueter, Ana Sifuentes-Martinez, Brandon Vasquez, Nancy Watson,  
2 Lindsay Wickham, and Ia Wood; and

3 WHEREAS, These hardworking professionals demonstrate an  
4 unyielding commitment to excellence as they carry on the long and  
5 storied tradition of their agency, and they may take justifiable  
6 pride in the important services they provide to the legislature and  
7 to the citizens of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby honor the Legislative Reference Library and  
10 extend to the staff members sincere appreciation for their  
11 outstanding contributions; and, be it further

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