86R13415 KSM-D

By:  Hunter H.C.R. No. 82

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The cruise operations in the home port of Galveston have an enormous economic impact on Texas; the city hosted more than 900,000 passenger and crew visits in 2017, which accounted for $1.42 billion in direct spending; in addition, the industry was responsible for generating over 25,000 Texas jobs and paying $1.62 billion in wage income; and

WHEREAS, South of Galveston, between Calhoun and Cameron Counties, from the tip of the Golden Crescent, along the Coastal Bend, to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas is home to several growing cities, robust tourism, and a wealth of natural resources; the area, with more than 150 miles of Gulf shoreline, also harbors three major deepwater ports, any of which might be a viable site for a cruise line headquarters or a port of embarkation; and

WHEREAS, Florida and California, respectively, benefit the most from the North American cruise industry, and each state operates multiple cruise ports; and

WHEREAS, An additional Texas cruise ship port between Calhoun and Cameron Counties could offer an attractive vacation option for a significant portion of the state's residents and be an economic boon to the state as a whole; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives to create a joint interim committee to conduct a study regarding the development of a cruise industry on the Texas coast between Calhoun and Cameron Counties, including its potential economic impact and options for incentives to attract the cruise industry to South Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim committees as the 86th Texas Legislature may adopt; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including findings and recommendations, to the 87th Texas Legislature before it convenes in January 2021.