

By: King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 2217

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 staffs, and its resources are also available to the
10 lieutenant governor, the speaker, and their staffs, to the staff of
11 the governor's office, to legislative officers, agencies, and
12 committees, to state agencies and commissions, to librarians and
13 legislators from other states, to members of the press, and to Texas
14 citizens; and

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

1 WHEREAS, The effectiveness of the library would not be
2 possible without the talented people who staff it; these
3 individuals provide in-depth analyses of legislation from all 50
4 states, respond to historical legislative queries, and create ad
5 hoc legislative statistical reports for staff in the speaker's and
6 lieutenant governor's offices; during legislative sessions, the
7 library plays an integral part in the legislative process; staff
8 develop electronic records in the Texas Legislative Tracking System
9 for each bill or resolution filed and furnish real-time information
10 to the legislative community, to executive agencies, and to
11 citizens of this state through such proprietary applications as
12 TLIS and TLO; and

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

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

1 and legislative legal resources, journals, law reviews, and
2 periodicals; a circulating collection of materials is also made
3 available to the legislative community; and

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

21 WHEREAS, Guided skillfully by director/librarian Mary Camp,
22 the LRL staff includes assistant director/librarian Catherine
23 Wusterhausen, administrative/legislative staff Donald Brower,
24 Elizabeth Buchanan, Michelle Martinez, Kali Palmer, Christopher
25 Taylor, Julia Walden, and Erin Willard, clipping service staffers
26 Vincent Cowan, David Wood, Karen Wright, and Jay Young, and
27 librarians Ali Dzienkowski, Cassandra Gallegos, Sally Harlow,

1 Melanie Harshman, Karen McBurney, Kaelyn Morice, Amanda Norman, Kay
2 Schlueter, Ana Sifuentes-Martinez, Brandon Vasquez, Lindsay
3 Wickham, and Ia Wood; and

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

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
10 Legislature hereby honor the Legislative Reference Library and
11 extend to the staff members sincere appreciation for their
12 outstanding contributions; and, be it further

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