By: Miles, et al. S.C.R. No. 29

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Members of the Texas Geographic Names Committee and

3 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names have issued a report which shows

4 that there are at least 28 geographic features in Texas with

5 racially offensive names; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1991, the Texas Legislature passed H.B. 1756,

7 relating to the elimination of certain racially offensive names of

8 geographic features; the act requires the renaming of any

9 geographic feature with a name containing the word "Negro," yet in

10 the 30 years since the law was passed, 17 of the 19 place names

11 detailed in the act remain unchanged; and

12 WHEREAS, Changes to place names require the approval of the

13 U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which in 1998 rejected the names

14 proposed by H.B. 1756; however, the names were submitted for

15 reconsideration at a recent meeting of the USBGN and will be

16 considered for validation and acceptance no later than June 2021;

17 and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to those currently under

19 reconsideration, the USBGN has identified 11 other place names in

20 Texas containing the slur, in contravention of Section 3 of H.B.

21 1756; there are currently no proposals to change these names, and

22 the board's protocol requires a formal proposal be submitted in

23 order to consider any changes; the board encourages Texas to seek

24 proponents to submit a proposal for each of these names; and

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- 1 WHEREAS, The perpetuation of racially offensive language is a
- 2 stain on the Lone Star State, and it is vital that the names of these
- 3 geographic features be changed in order to reflect and honor the
- 4 diversity of the population; now, therefore, be it
- 5 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 6 hereby urge the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to approve requests
- 7 to change racially offensive place names in accordance with Texas
- 8 H.B. 1756.