

By: Miles, et al.
(White)

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

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.