

By: Miles

S.C.R. No. 29

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Texas Geographic Names Committee and
2 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names have issued a report which shows
3 that there are at least 28 geographic features in Texas with
4 racially offensive names; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1991, the Texas Legislature passed H.B. 1756,
6 relating to the elimination of certain racially offensive names of
7 geographic features; the act requires the renaming of any
8 geographic feature with a name containing the word "Negro," yet in
9 the 30 years since the law was passed, 17 of the 19 place names
10 detailed in the act remain unchanged; and

11 WHEREAS, Changes to place names require the approval of the
12 U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which in 1998 rejected the names
13 proposed by H.B. 1756; however, the names were submitted for
14 reconsideration at a recent meeting of the USBGN and will be
15 considered for validation and acceptance no later than June 2021;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to those currently under
18 reconsideration, the USBGN has identified 11 other place names in
19 Texas containing the slur, in contravention of Section 3 of H.B.
20 1756; there are currently no proposals to change these names, and
21 the board's protocol requires a formal proposal be submitted in
22 order to consider any changes; the board encourages Texas to seek
23 proponents to submit a proposal for each of these names; and

24 WHEREAS, The perpetuation of racially offensive language is a

1 stain on the Lone Star State, and it is vital that the names of these
2 geographic features be changed in order to reflect and honor the
3 diversity of the population; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
5 hereby urge the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to approve requests
6 to change racially offensive place names in accordance with Texas
7 H.B. 1756.