

By: Hughes, Hall

S.C.R. No. 32

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Northeast Texas Trail is a 130-mile-long
3 converted rail corridor, stretching from Farmersville through 19
4 rural towns and 7 counties to New Boston; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 2012, the Northeast Texas Trail Coalition has
6 advocated for turning this previously unused land into a
7 comprehensive system of parks, paths, and protected natural areas;
8 under the group's vision, the NETT will be the longest pedestrian,
9 bicycle, and equestrian trail in Texas, and it will link population
10 centers, public facilities, and neighborhoods across the region;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The construction of the NETT is expected to help
13 revitalize the communities along the trail's route, many of which
14 are severely disadvantaged; according to a 2014 economic impact
15 assessment, the project is a low-cost investment that will create
16 jobs, increase tourism, conserve valuable land, and bolster
17 property values; furthermore, studies show that when citizens have
18 access to safe and well-maintained outdoor spaces that can be used
19 for recreation, relaxation, and exercise, their overall quality of
20 life is improved; and

21 WHEREAS, The development of the Northeast Texas Trail is
22 likely to have a positive impact on the health, welfare, and
23 economic prosperity of the region's rural communities, and the
24 possibility of making it a part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife

1 system should be explored; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House
4 of Representatives to direct the appropriate house and senate
5 committees to conduct an interim study regarding the feasibility of
6 integrating the Northeast Texas Trail into the state park system;
7 and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the studies identify next steps in planning
9 and changes required in state statues, agency administrative rules,
10 and local ordinances, and that the committees consider in their
11 studies management and governance issues and coordination, as well
12 as the initial and ongoing resources needed to fully incorporate
13 the NETT into the state park system; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the committees submit full reports, including
15 finding and recommendations, to the 88th Legislature no later than
16 December 31, 2022.