

By: Hopper

H.R. No. 41

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Constitution, Article III, Section 5,
2 mandates that members of the Texas House of Representatives fulfill
3 their legislative duties during sessions called by the Governor,
4 including special sessions convened to address critical state
5 matters; and

6 WHEREAS, A quorum, defined as two-thirds of the elected
7 members of the Texas House of Representatives, is required to
8 conduct official legislative business, as established by Texas
9 House Rule 5, Section 1, and Article III, Section 10 of the Texas
10 Constitution; and

11 WHEREAS, On August 3, 2025, a significant number of
12 Democratic members of the Texas House of Representatives
13 deliberately absented themselves from the state to prevent the
14 establishment of a quorum, thereby obstructing legislative
15 proceedings during a special session called to address urgent
16 issues, including congressional redistricting; and

17 WHEREAS, This intentional quorum break, publicly
18 acknowledged by participating Democratic members, disrupted the
19 legislative process, delayed critical legislation, and imposed
20 financial burdens on the state through the costs associated with
21 efforts to restore quorum; and

22 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives has the authority
23 under its rules to impose penalties for actions that undermine its
24 ability to function, including the absence of members for the

1 purpose of denying a quorum, as demonstrated by the adoption of
2 fines for quorum-breaking in 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Monetary punishments are a necessary and
4 appropriate response to ensure accountability and deter future
5 disruptions of the legislative process; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Texas House of Representatives of the 89th
7 Legislature hereby:

8 1. Imposes a Daily Fine: All Democratic members who
9 participated in the quorum break beginning on August 3, 2025, shall
10 be fined \$500 per day for each day they were absent from the House
11 without leave, starting from the date the quorum was broken until
12 their return or the conclusion of the special session, with fines to
13 be deducted from their legislative salaries or personal funds; and

14 2. Permanently Reduces Office Budgets: The office
15 budgets of all Democratic members who participated in the quorum
16 break shall be reduced by 30 percent for the remainder of the 89th
17 Legislature, reflecting the financial impact of their absence on
18 the efficient operation of the House; and

19 3. Removes Stipends for Committee Chairs: All
20 Democratic members who participated in the quorum break and hold
21 committee chairmanships shall have any stipends or additional
22 compensation associated with those positions revoked for the
23 duration of the 89th Legislature, as their actions demonstrate a
24 failure to fulfill the responsibilities of leadership; and

25 4. Requires Payment of Retrieval Costs: All Democratic
26 members who participated in the quorum break shall be jointly and
27 severally responsible for reimbursing the state for costs incurred

1 in efforts to restore quorum, including but not limited to expenses
2 for law enforcement, legal actions, or other measures authorized by
3 the House or the Governor, with such costs to be assessed and
4 collected by the House Administration Committee; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the Texas House of
6 Representatives shall direct the House Administration Committee to
7 calculate and enforce the fines, budget reductions, stipend
8 removals, and retrieval cost assessments, ensuring compliance with
9 all applicable House rules and state laws; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Speaker shall notify affected members of
11 their obligations under this resolution and provide a mechanism for
12 appeal consistent with House rules; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this resolution takes effect immediately upon
14 its adoption by a majority vote of the Texas House of
15 Representatives, in accordance with House rules and applicable
16 state law.