

By: Vasut

H.R. No. 297

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Port Freeport is celebrating the 100th anniversary
2 of its founding in 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, The port traces its history to the early 1820s, when
4 Stephen F. Austin first recognized the potential of the Brazos
5 River as a deep-water port and selected the area for his own colony;
6 over the years, the region became a hub for economic activity, and
7 following a recommendation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
8 the Brazoria County Commissioners Court held an election to
9 establish the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District, to divert
10 the Brazos River and construct a bridge over the Diversion Channel;
11 the district was officially established in December 1925, and the
12 Diversion Channel was completed four years later; the first public
13 dock facilities were constructed in 1936; and

14 WHEREAS, Following the passage of Texas House Bill 542 in
15 2007, the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District was renamed Port
16 Freeport; since its inception, the port has grown to become a
17 strategic gateway for international trade, ranking among the top
18 ports in the United States for foreign waterborne export tonnage;
19 in addition, the port is one of the largest petrochemical and energy
20 ports in the nation and encompasses facilities for top leaders in
21 the chemical, crude oil, gases, agriculture, and automobile
22 industries; and

23 WHEREAS, Port Freeport has significantly contributed to the
24 state and national economy, generating an annual economic impact of

1 \$157.3 billion and sustaining more than 266,000 jobs nationwide;
2 the port has driven economic growth through infrastructure
3 investments such as the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement
4 Project, which is scheduled for completion in 2025; the \$295
5 million project includes the widening and deepening of the Freeport
6 Harbor Channel to depths ranging from 51 to 56 feet, making it the
7 deepest port in Texas; moreover, in September 2024, the Port
8 Freeport Commission voted to adopt a zero-tax rate, enabling the
9 port to operate as a self-reliant entity with no tax assessment; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the past century, Port Freeport has played an
11 important role in the economic vitality of the State of Texas,
12 demonstrating a steadfast commitment to sustainability,
13 innovation, and operational excellence, and it is indeed fitting to
14 join the people of Brazoria County in celebrating this important
15 milestone in the port's rich history; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of Port
18 Freeport and extend to all those affiliated with the port sincere
19 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Port Freeport as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.