



The State of Texas House of Representatives

H.C.R. No. 111

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The lasting promise of our great nation, that of freedom from oppression and the preservation of individual liberty, is the fundamental theme of the very document upon which our system of government was founded; and

WHEREAS, The central importance of the principles outlined in the United States Constitution once prompted President Harry S. Truman to describe it as "a living force"; similarly, President Ronald Reagan evoked the power of the individual liberties safeguarded by the constitution, referring to "a government which empowers its people" as "mankind's best defense against tyranny," and nowhere are these constitutional guarantees regarding the rights of the individual articulated more clearly than in the first 10 articles--the aptly named Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, While the Capitol grounds and adjacent state properties display statues, memorials, and commemorations of people, ideals, and events that demonstrate our country's abiding dedication to the values established by the Bill of Rights, there is no tribute to the document itself; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 443 of the Government Code authorizes the State Preservation Board to preserve, maintain, and restore the Capitol grounds and requires proposals to construct a monument or other improvement to the Capitol Complex to be submitted to the board for review; Section 443.0071, Government Code, defines the Capitol Complex to mean the state-owned property within the area bounded on the north by Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard, bounded on the east by Trinity Street, bounded on the south by 10th Street, and bounded on the west by Lavaca Street; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, adjoining portions of the Capitol Complex are grounds preserved and maintained by the Texas Building and Procurement Commission, which is specifically authorized by Section 116.3, Title 1, Texas Administrative Code, to approve modifications or improvements to state-owned property under the commission's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Texas Legislature find a commemorative structure to honor the Bill of Rights to be a worthy addition to the Capitol grounds or adjacent state property and endorse the incorporation there of a work that will convey to visitors a sense of history and the faith in human liberty symbolized by this document; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby authorize the State Preservation Board and the Texas Building and Procurement Commission, subject to state law and rules of the board and commission, to approve and permit the construction of a monument

H.C.R. No. 111

on the Capitol grounds or adjacent state property commemorating the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the board and commission be encouraged to locate the monument on the Supreme Court Plaza, unless another more appropriate site within the Capitol Complex becomes available; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That no public funds be used for the design and construction of the monument and that the State of Texas not facilitate fund-raising nor establish a state fund for the deposit of money raised for the design and construction of the monument; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the executive directors of the State Preservation Board and the Texas Building and Procurement Commission.

Strama
Naishtat
Cook of Colorado
Hardcastle
Howard of Travis

Straus
King of Parker
Farabee
Howard of Fort Bend

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Tom Craddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 111 was adopted by the House on May 2, 2007, by a non-record vote.



Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 111 was adopted by the Senate on May 23, 2007, by a viva-voce vote.

Patsy Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: Rick Perry
Governor

Mike Starnes

Member