

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 78

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The cruise operations in the home port of Galveston
2 have an enormous economic impact on Texas; the city hosted some
3 640,000 passengers in 2014, which accounted for more than \$1.2
4 billion in direct spending; in addition, the industry was
5 responsible for generating almost 20,000 Texas jobs and paying
6 nearly \$1.1 billion in wage income; and

7 WHEREAS, South of Galveston, between Calhoun and Cameron
8 Counties, from the tip of the Golden Crescent, along the Coastal
9 Bend, to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas is home to several
10 growing cities, robust tourism, and a wealth of natural resources;
11 the area, with more than 150 miles of Gulf shoreline, also harbors
12 three major deepwater ports, any of which might be a viable site for
13 a cruise line headquarters or a port of embarkation; and

14 WHEREAS, Florida and California, respectively, benefit the
15 most from the North American cruise industry; Florida operates five
16 cruise ports, including Port Canaveral, Port Everglades,
17 Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa, and California is home to four, in
18 Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, and San Francisco; an
19 additional Texas cruise ship port between Calhoun and Cameron
20 Counties could offer an attractive vacation option for a
21 significant portion of the state's residents and be an economic
22 boon to the state as a whole; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house

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1 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to conduct a
2 study regarding the development of a cruise industry on the Texas
3 coast between Calhoun and Cameron Counties, including its potential
4 economic impact and options for incentives to attract the cruise
5 industry to South Texas; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
7 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim
8 committees as the 85th Legislature may adopt.