WHEREAS, May 5, 2017, marks the 25th anniversary of the unconventional ratification of the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, One of the original 12 amendments submitted, pursuant to Article V, to the state legislatures for ratification by the First U.S. Congress, in 1789, the 27th Amendment was crafted by James Madison of Virginia while he served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives; by the end of 1791, 10 of the 12 amendments, known collectively as the Bill of Rights, had been approved by the requisite three-fourths of the states; the other two amendments, one of which pertained to congressional compensation, fell by the wayside; and

WHEREAS, The congressional compensation measure stipulated that "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened"; the amendment would thus prevent federal lawmakers from immediately benefiting from any pay raise they might give themselves, as every representative--and a third of the senators--would have to win reelection before they could realize a gain; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, a student at The University of Texas at Austin, Gregory Watson, learned about this unratified still-pending amendment and concluded that it was eminently relevant, Congress having granted itself a substantial pay raise in
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1978 and a special tax break in 1981; he determined that the amendment remained viable, and he committed himself to the laborious mission of securing its approval; the amendment gradually garnered wide public support, and with his dedicated efforts, it worked its way through a succession of state legislatures for a decade; on May 5, 1992, Alabama became the 38th state to ratify the centuries-old measure, thus securing its incorporation as the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution some 202 years after it was proposed by a Congress that was conducting its business in New York City; and

WHEREAS, A quarter century after its ratification, the 27th Amendment remains the most recent amendment to our nation's constitution, and it is indeed fitting that its unusual history and its significance be recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Klick
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H.C.R. No. 137

I certify that H.C.R. No. 137 was adopted by the House on May 5, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 137 was adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: 31 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 6 - 9 - 2017

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30 PM, 0' CLOCK

Secretary of State