By: McClendon   H.C.R. No. 187

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1   WHEREAS, Established in 1947 and safeguarded under Section
2 67, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, the Employees Retirement
3 System of Texas (ERS) provides retirement benefits for state
4 employees, elected state officials, and members of the judiciary
5 and administers service to approximately 500,000 public employees
6 and retirees from about 134 state agencies, 103 higher education
7 institutions, and 121 counties; and

8   WHEREAS, In 1999, the 76th Texas Legislature provided for a
9 supplemental retirement annuity for retired state employees in the
10 form of a 13th check, and the next year ERS announced that it would
11 issue this lump sum check to state employees who were retired on or
12 before August 31, 2000; despite this assurance, retirees are still
13 waiting to receive the promised benefit; and

14   WHEREAS, Current law permits the ERS board of trustees to
15 adopt benefit enhancements if budget projections indicate that the
16 ERS fund can pay all retirement benefits due current beneficiaries
17 in less than 31 years; data suggests that the system's amortization
18 period will remain under 31 years if ERS funding proposed by the
19 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 80th Texas Legislature,
20 Regular Session, 2007, is maintained; and

21   WHEREAS, The hardworking employees of the State of Texas
22 greatly contribute to the state and deserve proper compensation for
23 their dedication and service to the citizens of Texas; it is
24 imperative, therefore, that the legislature show its support for

1   the supplemental annuity by firmly endorsing the issuing of a 13th

2   check to retirees no later than September 2007; now, therefore, be

3   it

4   RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas

5   hereby express its commitment to the state's retired public

6   employees and support for the Employees Retirement System of Texas

7   board of trustees exercising its statutory authority to provide

8   eligible system beneficiaries with a supplemental annuity in the

9   form of a 13th check.