

HOUSE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

THIRD DAY — THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

The house met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The roll of the house was called and a quorum was announced present (Record 2).

Present — Mr. Speaker; Allen; Alonzo; Alvarado; Anchia; Anderson; Aycock; Berman; Bohac; Bolton; Bonnen; Branch; Brown, B.; Brown, F.; Burnam; Button; Callegari; Chisum; Christian; Cohen; Coleman; Cook; Crabb; Craddick; Creighton; Crownover; Darby; Davis, J.; Davis, Y.; Deshotel; Driver; Dukes; Dunnam; Dutton; Edwards; Eiland; Eissler; Elkins; England; Farabee; Farias; Farrar; Fletcher; Flores; Flynn; Gallego; Geren; Giddings; Gonzales; Gonzalez Toureilles; Guillen; Gutierrez; Hamilton; Hancock; Hardcastle; Harless; Harper-Brown; Hartnett; Heflin; Hernandez; Herrero; Hochberg; Hodge; Homer; Hopson; Howard, C.; Howard, D.; Hughes; Hunter; Isett; Jackson; Jones; Keffer; Kent; King, P.; King, S.; King, D.; King, T.; Kleinschmidt; Kolkhorst; Kuempel; Laubenberg; Legler; Leibowitz; Lewis; Lucio; Madden; Maldonado; Mallory Caraway; Marquez; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McCall; McClendon; McReynolds; Menendez; Merritt; Miklos; Miller, D.; Miller, S.; Moody; Morrison; Naishtat; Oliveira; Olivo; Orr; Ortiz; Otto; Parker; Patrick; Paxton; Peña; Phillips; Pickett; Pierson; Pitts; Quintanilla; Raymond; Riddle; Rios Ybarra; Ritter; Rodriguez; Rose; Sheffield; Shelton; Smith, T.; Smith, W.; Smithee; Solomons; Strama; Swinford; Taylor; Thibaut; Thompson; Truitt; Turner, C.; Turner, S.; Vaught; Veasey; Villarreal; Vo; Walle; Weber; Woolley; Zerwas.

Absent, Excused — Castro; Frost; Gattis.

Absent — Chavez; Corte; Hilderbran.

The invocation was offered by Don Garner, Capitol Ministries, Austin, as follows:

Our Father in heaven, I thank you for your readiness to hear the prayers offered this morning for these leaders of our state. I ask you to honor their service to our state by granting them wisdom and judgement equal to the demands of the day and all the days of this 81st Legislative Session.

Bless the family relationships of these leaders and strengthen them through the many unique pressures their position brings to bear, not only upon them, but their families as well. Lord, show yourself strong on their behalf and reveal yourself to them in the deepest places of the heart. May they know you as the

God who hears, the God who provides, the God who directs, and the God who redeems. Grant them favor with those they serve and fellowship with you this day. In Christ's name. Amen.

The speaker recognized Representative Cook who led the house in the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

CAPITOL PHYSICIAN

The speaker recognized Representative Hardcastle who presented Dr. David Greer of Henrietta as the "Doctor for the Day."

The house welcomed Dr. Greer and thanked him for his participation in the Physician of the Day Program sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

(Driver in the chair)

LEAVES OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following members were granted leaves of absence for today because of important business in the district:

Castro on motion of Ortiz.

Frost on motion of Hopson.

The following member was granted leave of absence for the remainder of today because of important business in the district:

Branch on motion of Harper-Brown.

(Corte and Hilderbran now present)

(Speaker in the chair)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the senate was received at this time (see the addendum to the daily journal, Messages from the Senate, Message No. 1).

(Chavez now present)

(Ritter in the chair)

HR 67 - ADOPTED

(by Hardcastle)

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HR 67, Honoring Dr. T. David Greer, Physician of the Day for January 15, 2009, for his professional achievements.

HR 67 was read and was adopted.

On motion of Representative Hodge, the names of all the members of the house were added to **HR 67** as signers thereof.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following member was granted leave of absence for the remainder of today because of important business in the district:

Taylor on motion of Crownover.

**HR 122 - ADOPTED
(by Vo and Pierson)**

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HR 122, Commemorating the Vietnamese New Year holiday on January 26, 2009.

HR 122 was adopted.

**HR 123 - ADOPTED
(by Vo)**

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HR 123, Commemorating the Chinese New Year holiday on January 26, 2009.

HR 123 was adopted.

**HR 124 - ADOPTED
(by Vo)**

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HR 124, Commemorating the Lunar New Year holiday on January 26, 2009.

HR 124 was adopted.

**SCR 2 - ADOPTED
(Smithee - House Sponsor)**

The following resolution was laid before the house:

SCR 2, Commemorating the centennial of West Texas A&M University.

SCR 2 was adopted.

**SCR 3 - ADOPTED
(Gallego - House Sponsor)**

The following resolution was laid before the house:

SCR 3, Granting the legislature permission to adjourn for more than three days during the period beginning on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, and ending on Monday, January 26, 2009.

SCR 3 was adopted.

(Speaker in the chair)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following member was granted leave of absence for the remainder of today because of important business in the district:

Paxton on motion of P. King.

(Phillips in the chair)

HR 3 -ADOPTED (by Geren)

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HR 3

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, That the following is adopted as the housekeeping resolution for the House of Representatives of the 81st ~~80th~~ Legislature:

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ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1.01. PURPOSE. This resolution is adopted by the members of the House of Representatives of the 81st [~~80th~~] Legislature to provide for the efficient and orderly operation of the house under the supervision of the speaker and the Committee on House Administration.

SECTION 1.02. PRECEDENCE. The provisions of this resolution take precedence over the provisions of any resolution not passed in full compliance with the rules of the house and, except as otherwise noted herein, shall be in effect during the full term of the 81st [~~80th~~] Legislature whether in session or adjournment.

ARTICLE 2. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

SECTION 2.01. SPEAKER'S GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The speaker may make any expenditures or transfers and perform any function deemed necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the house of representatives.

SECTION 2.02. SPEAKER'S APARTMENT AND OFFICES. (a) The speaker's apartment and offices shall be set aside for the use of the speaker, the speaker's family, and members, as the speaker may designate, throughout the speaker's term of office.

(b) The Committee on House Administration may make the necessary expenditures to operate and properly equip and service the speaker's apartment and offices and may employ such help as may be necessary to properly maintain and care for the apartment and offices.

(c) The speaker and the speaker's family may occupy the speaker's apartment during the speaker's term of office, utilizing the services of employees of the house and others on a temporary basis, if and as needed.

(d) The speaker may obtain through the Committee on House Administration the necessary supplies and services to operate the speaker's office and may also have paid through that committee necessary local and long distance telephone charges.

SECTION 2.03. INTERSTATE OR FEDERAL-STATE ASSOCIATIONS; TRAINING SEMINARS. (a) The speaker may attend any meetings of or sponsored by the Council of State Governments and any meetings on problems of federal-state relations and interstate relations and cooperation, and any other governmental meeting in or outside the state.

(b) The speaker may appoint members of the house, staff members, and other employees of the house to accompany or represent the speaker at these meetings or to attend in-service training courses sponsored by the Council of State Governments or the National Conference of State Legislatures or similar training courses, conferences, or seminars as the speaker may determine.

(c) Members of the house attending meetings under this section while the legislature is in session may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. Members of the house attending meetings under this section while the legislature is not in session and staff members and other employees of the house attending meetings at any time under this section may be reimbursed for either actual and necessary expenses or receive a per diem not to exceed that provided by law for state officials or state employees. In addition, members, staff, and other employees attending meetings under this section may be reimbursed for mileage or other transportation expenses at the same rate as provided by law for state officials or state employees together with registration fees and tuition. To receive payment under this subsection, sworn expense accounts must be filed with and approved by the chair of the Committee on House Administration or an officer of the house designated in writing by the Committee on House Administration. Prior written approval of the chair of the Committee on House Administration to attend any such meetings, conferences, seminars, or training courses is a prerequisite for reimbursement for travel and other related expenses.

(d) Reimbursement for expenses incurred by a member, staff member, or employee of the house in an appointive capacity resulting from an appointment made by anyone other than the speaker shall be made only in the event that the appointment and expenses to be incurred have been previously approved in writing by the Committee on House Administration.

(e) The speaker may expend money for memberships in interstate associations of legislators considered necessary to discharge properly the duties and responsibilities of the office of speaker.

ARTICLE 3. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 3.01. CONTRACTS. The Committee on House Administration shall approve all contracts necessary for the effective operation of the divisions of the house and its committees.

SECTION 3.02. HOUSE AND COMMITTEE OPERATING BUDGETS. The Committee on House Administration shall consider and adopt operating budgets that cover both session and interim periods for the divisions of the house and all committees appointed pursuant to the resolution adopting the rules of the house or appointed by the speaker pursuant to any other resolution.

SECTION 3.03. OPERATING POLICIES. The Committee on House Administration shall effectuate policies and determine guidelines for the operation of the divisions and committees of the house.

SECTION 3.04. HOUSE POLICY MANUAL. The Committee on House Administration shall prepare and distribute to all members, within 60 days after the convening of the regular session, policy statements to include, but not be limited to, policies pertaining to members as a class.

SECTION 3.05. HOUSE PROPERTY, SUPPLIES, ACCOUNTING. The Committee on House Administration shall:

(1) provide and maintain for the use of the speaker, members, employees, divisions, and committees of the house such stationery, stamps, office equipment, furniture, fixtures, supplies, and telephone and other services as may be necessary;

(2) keep an itemized account of the quantity and cost of every kind of material received, and the source from which it was received;

(3) maintain an annual operating account for each member, division, and committee authorized by the Committee on House Administration to make expenditures and charge each operating account with daily expenditures, withdrawals from inventory, and interdepartmental services;

(4) furnish a monthly statement for the expenditures of each member, division, and committee of the house; and

(5) adopt any rules, regulations, and policies necessary to effectively provide and account for the above-mentioned services.

SECTION 3.06. USE OF HOUSE CHAMBER AND FACILITIES; ASSIGNMENT OF DESKS, OFFICES, AND PARKING SPACES. (a) The Committee on House Administration shall:

(1) be in charge of and provide for the protection, maintenance, and use of the hall of the house, all committee rooms, offices of members and house departments, the speaker's office and apartment, and other space under the jurisdiction of the house;

(2) make permanent assignments of desks and offices to members of the house;

(3) adopt and enforce a plan for the parking of motor vehicles on the portion of the Capitol grounds under house jurisdiction;

(4) be in charge of and provide for the protection, maintenance, and use of the furniture, fixtures, equipment, and records of the house;

(5) purchase, remodel, repair, restore, or replace any furniture, fixtures, equipment, and other furnishings to maintain the dignity and appearance of space occupied by the house; and

(6) determine the hours the hall of the house shall be open to visitors.

(b) Any member who is not a member-elect of the 82nd [~~81st~~] Legislature shall vacate the member's office space before December 1, 2010 [~~2008~~]. If the office is not vacated on that date, the Committee on House Administration shall immediately remove the member's personal effects and store them in an appropriate place in order that the member-elect to whom the office space is assigned may move in. The Committee on House Administration shall ensure that each member-elect of the 82nd [~~81st~~] Legislature who was not a member of the 81st [~~80th~~] Legislature is permitted to move into and begin using the member-elect's office space at least 48 hours before the time the 82nd [~~81st~~] Legislature is scheduled to convene.

SECTION 3.07. RECORDS OF THE HOUSE; PRINTING; JOURNALS; COPIES OF LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS. (a) The Committee on House Administration shall:

(1) have completed and preserved the official records of the house;

(2) have charge of and approve the operation and maintenance of the printing and duplicating facilities of the house, provided, however, that the use of the house printing and duplicating facilities is restricted to agencies of the legislative branch and any other operation thereof is strictly prohibited unless previously authorized in writing by the Committee on House Administration or an officer of the house designated in writing by the speaker;

(3) determine the number of copies of the daily House Journal to be printed and have jurisdiction over the mailing and distribution of the daily journal; and

(4) determine the number of copies of the House Journal that will be furnished to each member for distribution by the member.

(b) The employee in charge of the printing facilities must keep at least one copy of all items printed or duplicated and a copy of the work order authorizing such printing.

(c) Copies of bills, resolutions, and attachments thereto shall be made available free of charge to members of the house who call at the bill distribution office and request them, and the cost of these copies shall be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose by the legislature. If the Committee on House Administration finds gross abuse of this privilege, it may establish a policy regarding such distribution.

SECTION 3.08. HONORARY CERTIFICATES. The Committee on House Administration shall provide for the use of members appropriate certificates to commend, congratulate, and memorialize. Such certificates shall be printed with a signature line for the name of the presenting member and adequate space for insertion of the name of the individual or organization to be honored.

SECTION 3.09. COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH. (a) The Committee on House Administration shall select a suitable photographer to take individual photographs of each member. The photographer shall prepare a composite photograph of the members of the house composed of the individual photographs of each member arranged on a panel, of the same size as used in previous sessions, in such manner as to approximate the location of each member's desk on the house floor. The member's name and the county of residence shall be printed under the member's photograph, and the composite shall be framed and hung in the hall of the house during the regular session.

(b) The photographs for the composite panel shall be provided without cost to the members, and the expense of the composite panel shall be paid from the expense fund of the house.

(c) The Committee on House Administration shall establish, with concurrence of the photographer, a price to charge members for any prints of photographs they wish to purchase.

SECTION 3.10. POLICIES REGARDING TEMPORARY ACTING MEMBERS. If a person is serving as a temporary acting member of the house under Section 72, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, in the place of a house member on active military duty, the Committee on House Administration, with the approval of the speaker and in consultation with the temporary acting member and, if available, the member on military duty, may adopt policies regarding a

temporary acting member that the committee considers necessary for the efficient administration and performance of the duties of the house consistent with this resolution, the rules of the house, and the Texas Constitution.

SECTION 3.11. DISPLAY OF "IN GOD WE TRUST" IN HOUSE. (a) The Committee on House Administration shall display the motto "In God We Trust" on the electronic message screen at the front of the hall of the house.

(b) The motto shall be large enough to be read throughout the hall.

(c) The motto shall be displayed at all times that the electronic message screen is not being used to conduct legislative business during a session of the house and shall be at least as prominent as any other information displayed on the electronic message screen.

(d) The Committee on House Administration shall convey to the State Preservation Board the request of the house of representatives to permanently display the motto on the face of the white portion of the portico located over the speaker's podium and beneath the electronic message screen at the front of the hall of the house and provide any assistance to the State Preservation Board in this matter.

ARTICLE 4. EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

SECTION 4.01. DEFINITION. Unless expressly provided otherwise, in this article "employee" means any person compensated from funds appropriated to the house. The term includes persons for whom the employing authority is the speaker, the Committee on House Administration, an individual member, or a committee.

SECTION 4.02. OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORY ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES OF THE HOUSE. (a) The officers of the house and the employees of the house responsible for supervising the departments and divisions that support the operation of the house shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the speaker.

(b) The speaker shall have the right to discharge any officer or supervisory administrative employee when the best interest of the house of representatives would be served by so doing.

(c) The authority to appoint and discharge officers and supervisory administrative employees may be delegated to the Committee on House Administration to the extent and for the length of time the speaker determines.

(d) In the event of the absence, resignation, or death of any officer or supervisory administrative employee the speaker may designate a person to take charge of and attend to all the duties of the office affected until the officer returns or until a successor is chosen.

SECTION 4.03. OTHER CENTRAL HOUSE PERSONNEL. (a) The Committee on House Administration shall employ all personnel necessary for the operation of the house other than:

- (1) those appointed under Section 4.02; or
- (2) employees of an individual member or committee.

(b) For purposes of this article, the Committee on House Administration is the employing authority for all house employees other than those for whom the employing authority is the speaker, an individual member, or a committee.

SECTION 4.04. EMPLOYEES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER. A member may employ, with funds from the member's operating budget, such staff as the member deems necessary.

SECTION 4.05. COMMITTEE STAFF; AUTHORITY TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE. (a) The Committee on House Administration shall provide funds for the adequate staffing of all committees appointed by the speaker.

(b) Select committees, interim study committees, standing committees, or subcommittees appointed pursuant to the resolution adopting the rules of the house or appointed by the speaker pursuant to any other resolution may employ any person, firm, or corporation, subject to budget limitations. Those committees or subcommittees may ask the assistance of any of the employees, agencies, departments, or branches of the state government.

SECTION 4.06. WORK SCHEDULE; HOURS OF HOUSE OPERATIONS. (a) An employee shall be on duty on the days and hours determined by the employing authority.

(b) All offices of the departments and divisions that support the operations of the house shall be open on days and hours determined by the Committee on House Administration or the speaker and other hours that the house or its committees are in session.

SECTION 4.07. COMPENSATION. (a) Officers and supervisory administrative employees of the house shall receive the compensation that the speaker or Committee on House Administration determines.

(b) The Committee on House Administration shall fix the compensation of house personnel employed under Section 4.03. A person employed under that section who is absent without leave shall not receive compensation for the time missed.

(c) The salaries of employees of individual members, committees, and the house shall begin when they are instructed to start work by their respective employing authority.

(d) Except as provided by Subsections ~~[Subsection]~~ (e) and (f) of this section, an employee of an individual member, a committee employee, or any person, firm, or corporation employed by a committee or subcommittee may not be paid a salary in excess of \$4,200 ~~[\$4,017]~~ for any one month.

(e) A member may additionally exempt one employee of the individual member and, if the member is a chair of a standing or select committee, one employee of the standing or select committee the member chairs from the salary cap imposed by Subsection (d) of this section. Each calendar year the member shall file with the Committee on House Administration a statement designating the exempt employee. During a calendar year after an exempt employee has been designated, the member may exempt a different employee from the salary cap only if the employee previously designated as exempt for the calendar year is no longer employed by the member or committee, as appropriate. The exempt employee may not receive compensation from the operating account of any other committee or member.

(f) The Committee on House Administration may increase the amount of the salary cap imposed by Subsection (d) of this section to account for any increase in salary provided to all state employees during the biennium that begins during the term of the legislature to which this resolution applies.

SECTION 4.08. DUTIES. An employee shall perform all duties directed by the employing authority.

SECTION 4.09. APPEARANCE BEFORE COMMITTEES. An employee may appear before a standing or select committee on a measure when granted permission by majority vote of the committee.

SECTION 4.10. CHAMBER ACCESS. (a) An employee may not enter the house chamber when the house is in session except when performing official duties and specifically authorized by the Committee on House Administration.

(b) An employee may not enter the area on the floor of the house enclosed by the railing when the house is in session except when specifically authorized by the Committee on House Administration.

SECTION 4.11. VOTING. An employee may not cast a vote for a member on the voting machine or otherwise.

SECTION 4.12. VOTING RECORDS. An employee may not compile or release any information concerning the voting record of any member of the house for any session of the legislature except when a member requests information about that member's personal voting record or when the information is for the journal or other official records.

SECTION 4.13. CAMPAIGN FOR SPEAKER. An employee may not campaign or assist in the campaign of any candidate for speaker.

SECTION 4.14. POLITICAL INFLUENCE. An employee may not attempt to, or aid anyone in an attempt to, influence any member of the house in favor of or against any measure pending before the legislature, either directly or indirectly, except when answering questions or giving information at the request of a member of the house.

SECTION 4.15. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT, EXTRA COMPENSATION, OR GIFTS. An employee may not receive, directly or indirectly, any compensation, by gift or otherwise, from any other source, unless specifically authorized by the employing authority.

SECTION 4.16. DISCHARGE. (a) An employee is subject to immediate discharge by the employing authority for violation of any section of this article or any other applicable rule.

(b) The Committee on House Administration shall dispense with the services of any person employed under Section 4.03 who is not needed or who is guilty of misconduct.

(c) An individual member or chair of a committee employing an employee who violates any applicable section of this article or any rule shall be advised of the violation by the Committee on House Administration, and the employing authority shall take appropriate action with regard to the employee in question.

(d) The Committee on House Administration may conduct an investigation into allegations of gross misconduct and may discharge or otherwise discipline an employee of an individual member or committee if the committee finds that the employee has engaged in gross misconduct.

SECTION 4.17. DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT. The period of employment of all employees shall be determined by the employing authority, except that employees of all committees and of individual members who are not members-elect of the next legislature shall be terminated not later than noon on the day of the convening of the next regular session.

SECTION 4.18. EMPLOYMENT BY MORE THAN ONE MEMBER OR COMMITTEE. (a) Members may join in the employment of a research assistant or assistants to be paid jointly from their operating budgets. Unless expressly authorized by the provisions of this resolution, the members who join together to sponsor such research shall not constitute a committee, task force, or group to operate in any official or quasi-official manner not specifically authorized under the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) No person, firm, or corporation may be employed by more than two committees or subcommittees.

SECTION 4.19. POSITION TITLES AND CLASSIFICATIONS. The job title for each position shall be determined by the employing authority. The employing authority and the house business office shall classify each job title for accounting purposes according to the following position classifications, unless otherwise determined by the Committee on House Administration:

(a) Member Employees

1. Chief of Staff [~~Administrative Assistant~~]
2. General Counsel [~~Legislative Aide~~]
3. Legislative Director [~~Administrative Secretary~~]
4. Legislative Assistant [~~Secretary~~]
5. Administrative Assistant [~~Clerk~~]
6. Special Project Coordinator
7. Intern

(b) Committee Employees

1. Committee General Counsel
2. Chief Committee Clerk
3. Committee Clerk
- [4. ~~Committee Secretary~~]

(c) Research Employees

1. Research Director
2. Research Assistant
3. Policy Analyst [~~Research Secretary~~]

ARTICLE 5. ACCOUNTING

SECTION 5.01. FUNDING OF OFFICE OPERATIONS. (a) Each member of the house shall be allocated funds for staff, office supplies, office equipment, postage, printing, telephone, travel, and such other reasonable and necessary office expenses as may be determined by the Committee on House Administration.

(b) The manner in which funds are allocated, and the amounts thereof, are as provided by this article.

SECTION 5.02. OPERATING ACCOUNTS. (a) Each member who served in the 80th ~~[79th]~~ Legislature shall have the following operating accounts for the 81st ~~[80th]~~ Legislature:

(1) a Fiscal Year ~~Nine [Seven]~~ Operating Account (September 1, 2008 ~~[2006]~~, through August 31, 2009 ~~[2007]~~);

(2) a Fiscal Year ~~Ten [Eight]~~ Operating Account (September 1, 2009 ~~[2007]~~, through August 31, 2010 ~~[2008]~~); and

(3) a Fiscal Year ~~Eleven [Nine]~~ Operating Account (September 1, 2010 ~~[2008]~~, through January 11, 2011 ~~[13, 2009]~~).

(b) Each member who did not serve in the 80th ~~[79th]~~ Legislature shall have the following operating accounts for the 81st ~~[80th]~~ Legislature:

(1) a Fiscal Year ~~Nine [Seven]~~ Operating Account (January 13, 2009 ~~[9, 2007]~~, through August 31, 2009 ~~[2007]~~);

(2) a Fiscal Year ~~Ten [Eight]~~ Operating Account (September 1, 2009 ~~[2007]~~, through August 31, 2010 ~~[2008]~~); and

(3) a Fiscal Year ~~Eleven [Nine]~~ Operating Account (September 1, 2010 ~~[2008]~~, through January 11, 2011 ~~[13, 2009]~~).

(c) For each member who served in the 80th ~~[79th]~~ Legislature, it shall not be necessary to close the member's Fiscal Year ~~Nine [Seven]~~ Operating Account when the 81st ~~[80th]~~ Legislature convenes.

SECTION 5.03. CREDIT FOR NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS. Each member who did not serve in the 80th ~~[79th]~~ Legislature may have credited to the member's Fiscal Year ~~Nine [Seven]~~ Operating Account the amount of \$2,000.

SECTION 5.04. MONTHLY CREDIT. (a) Each member's operating account shall be credited with \$13,250 ~~[\$11,750]~~ for each month that falls wholly or partly during the regular legislative session. In any other month, each member's operating account shall be credited with \$12,250, except that ~~[Beginning September 1, 2007,]~~ the Committee on House Administration may increase the amount credited to each member's operating account ~~[for each month]~~ to an amount not to exceed \$13,250 ~~[\$12,250]~~.

(b) The Committee on House Administration may provide to the dean and the speaker pro tempore of the house additional funds as may be determined to be necessary for the duties of those offices to be fulfilled.

(c) The Committee on House Administration may increase the amount credited each month to each member's operating account in an amount to allow for an increase in:

(1) the salary cap as provided by Section 4.07(f); or

(2) longevity pay as authorized by legislation.

SECTION 5.045. DETERMINATION OF OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE. (a) On the third business day of each calendar month, the House Business Office shall determine the available, unobligated balance at the end of the preceding calendar month for each member's operating account and each committee operating account. If the House Business Office determines that a member's operating account has a negative balance at the end of the preceding

calendar month, the office shall provide notice to the member and the member shall deposit funds in the account equal to the negative balance not later than the 10th business day after the date the member receives notice of the deficit from the House Business Office.

(b) A committee operating account may not operate at a deficit.

(c) If a member is not a member-elect of the 82nd Legislature, the member's operating account may not operate at a deficit after November 30, 2010.

SECTION 5.05. ACCOUNT CLOSING [~~AND AUDIT~~]. (a) Each member's Fiscal Year Nine [~~Seven~~] Operating Account shall be closed as of August 31, 2009 [~~2007~~, and a final audit shall be conducted as soon thereafter as possible].

(b) Each member may carry forward and have credited to the member's Fiscal Year Ten [~~Eight~~] Operating Account the unexpended balance of the member's Fiscal Year Nine [~~Seven~~] Operating Account, not to exceed \$15,000.

(c) Each member's Fiscal Year Ten [~~Eight~~] Operating Account shall be closed as of August 31, 2010 [~~2008~~, and a final audit shall be conducted as soon thereafter as possible].

(d) Each member may carry forward and have credited to the member's Fiscal Year Eleven [~~Nine~~] Operating Account the unexpended balance of the member's Fiscal Year Ten [~~Eight~~] Operating Account, not to exceed \$15,000.

SECTION 5.06. EXPENDITURES CHARGED WHEN ENCUMBERED. All expenditures shall be charged to the period in which they are encumbered.

SECTION 5.07. TRAVEL TO AUSTIN DURING SESSION NOT CHARGED TO OPERATING ACCOUNT. While the legislature is in session, the travel expenses of members for one trip each week between Austin and their districts and return shall not be charged against the members' operating accounts but shall be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose by the legislature.

SECTION 5.08. TRAVEL OUTSIDE TEXAS. A member is entitled to be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred while traveling outside Texas in the performance of legislative duties and responsibilities. If the reimbursement is for travel inside the conterminous United States, reimbursement is limited to twice the amount that would be reimbursed state employees for the same travel under the comptroller's guidelines and rates governing travel by state employees [~~State of Texas Travel Allowance Guide~~].

SECTION 5.09. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES. (a) No allowance included in this resolution shall be expended except for actual salaries or actual expenses of the house, its members, departments, committees, and employees and for such other expenses as are authorized by the Committee on House Administration.

(b) The Committee on House Administration may not authorize any expenditures of funds for personal or political campaign reasons.

(c) All expenditures authorized by this resolution shall be paid from funds appropriated for the use of the house of representatives by vouchers or other forms approved by the speaker of the house and the Committee on House Administration.

ARTICLE 6. CAUCUSES

SECTION 6.01. DEFINITION. In this article, "caucus" means an organization that is composed exclusively of members of the legislature, that elects or appoints officers and recognizes identified legislators as members of the organization, and that exists for research and other support of policy development and interests that the membership holds in common. An organization whose only nonlegislator members are the lieutenant governor or the governor remains a "caucus" for purposes of this section.

SECTION 6.02. USE OF HOUSE FUNDS, EMPLOYEES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES. (a) Except as expressly authorized by this section, funds appropriated to the house may not be expended in support of a caucus, employees compensated from funds appropriated to the house may not perform caucus activities, and state-owned equipment and facilities may not be used in the performance of caucus activities.

~~(b) [A person who is a caucus employee may not also be an employee of an individual member or a committee and may not be compensated for any purpose from funds appropriated to the house of representatives.]~~

~~(c)~~ An individual member of the house may authorize the use of state equipment assigned to the member's office and the performance of caucus activities by an employee of the member only if:

(1) the member determines that the activities support the member's official duties;

(2) the caucus does not endorse or support a candidate for public office;

and

~~(3) [the caucus complies with the open meetings law (Chapter 551, Government Code) and public information law (Chapter 552, Government Code) as a governmental body; and~~

~~(4)]~~ the caucus does not accept contributions from nonmembers that are required by law to be reported to the Texas Ethics Commission.

~~(c) [(d)]~~ A caucus may use the meeting rooms of the Capitol and Capitol extension to conduct meetings of the caucus membership or to host public forums on matters of interest to the caucus.

~~(d) [(e)]~~ An individual member may ~~not~~ house, in the state office space assigned to the member, caucus employees or equipment owned by a caucus. A member may retain in the member's office a telephone, facsimile machine, or computer owned by the caucus for purposes of the member's communication with the caucus or caucus employees.

~~(f) This section does not prohibit a member of the house from employing a person who at the same time is receiving a stipend from a caucus, or a nonprofit corporation affiliated with a caucus, if:~~

~~(1) the employment is in connection with an internship program associated with an institution of higher education for which the person receiving the stipend is receiving course credit;~~

~~(2) the person is employed by the house member for not more than six months; and~~

~~[(3) the person has not previously participated in an internship program for which a caucus or nonprofit corporation affiliated with a caucus has provided a stipend.]~~

SECTION 6.03. CONTRIBUTIONS. (a) A person acting on behalf of a caucus may not knowingly accept a contribution in violation of Section 253.0341, Election Code.

(b) A person acting on behalf of a caucus may not knowingly accept, and shall refuse a contribution that is received, in the Capitol.

SECTION 6.04. MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICER LISTS. Each caucus shall provide to the chief clerk, on a regular basis, a list of its current membership and officers.

SECTION 6.05. REPORT TO ETHICS COMMISSION. Each caucus shall file a report of contributions and expenditures with the Texas Ethics Commission as required by Section 254.0311, Election Code.

ARTICLE 7. HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

SECTION 7.01. ESTABLISHMENT. The Committee on House Administration shall provide operating funds for a house research organization that will be an administrative department of the house and may for that purpose adopt policies and procedures relating to the administrative operation of that organization.

SECTION 7.02. STEERING COMMITTEE. The functions and duties performed by the house research organization shall be governed by a 15-member steering committee composed of house members serving staggered four-year terms, who are subject to approval of the house membership.

SECTION 7.03. BUDGET. The house research organization shall have an operating account and in compliance with the terms of its establishment shall operate under a budget approved by the steering committee and the Committee on House Administration.

ARTICLE 8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INTERIM

SECTION 8.01. INTERIM COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES. (a) Pursuant to the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1961 (Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code), standing committees of the house established by the rules of the house may hold meetings while the legislature is not in session.

(b) The speaker may grant authority to select committees, interim study committees, subcommittees, or standing committees of the house to hold meetings while the legislature is not in session as the speaker considers necessary and desirable to conduct the business of the house and to assist the speaker in conducting the business of the house, under a pattern of operation and restrictions determined by the rules of the house.

(c) The committee members and employees may either be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses or receive a per diem not to exceed that provided by law for state officials or state employees, along with mileage or other transportation expenses at the same rate as provided by law for state officials or state employees when conducting such business and attending those meetings when approved by the Committee on House Administration.

SECTION 8.02. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION DURING INTERIM. (a) When the legislature is not in session, the Committee on House Administration may act as provided by this section.

(b) The committee may call meetings for the transaction of necessary business, and the committee members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them when attending such meetings or when in performance of their duties as members of the Committee on House Administration, the reimbursement to be either actual and necessary expenses or a per diem not to exceed that provided by law for state officials or state employees, along with mileage or other transportation expenses at the same rate as provided by law for state officials or state employees.

(c) The committee may reimburse authorized members and employees for expenses incurred by them when traveling in the performance of their legislative duties and responsibilities within their respective districts or within any county in which any part of their districts lie or from their districts to the State Capitol, the reimbursement to be either actual and necessary expenses or a per diem not to exceed that provided by law for state officials or state employees, along with mileage or other transportation expenses at the same rate as provided by law for state officials or state employees.

(d) The committee may pay for all other reasonable and necessary expenses, including operation of each member's district office, incurred by the members of the house of representatives. The expenses shall be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose, or any other funds appropriated for the use of the house of representatives, on vouchers or other forms approved by the chair of the Committee on House Administration, in accordance with regulations governing such expenditures.

(e) The committee may assign or reassign parking places in the best interest of the house under such terms and conditions as the committee deems necessary.

(Speaker in the chair)

Amendment No. 1

Representative D. Miller offered the following amendment to **HR 3**:

Amend **HR 3** (the Housekeeping Resolution) in SECTION 3.06(b) (page 9, line 15) by striking "48" and substituting "72 [~~48~~]".

Amendment No. 1 was adopted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following member was granted leave of absence for the remainder of today because of a death in the family:

Bonnen on motion of Merritt.

HR 3 - (consideration continued)

Amendment No. 2

Representative Cook offered the following amendment to **HR 3**:

Amend **HR 3** (the Housekeeping Resolution) as follows:

(1) Strike proposed SECTION 5.05(b) of the resolution (page 21, lines 23-26) and substitute the following:

(b) Each member may carry forward and have credited to the member's Fiscal Year Ten [~~Eight~~] Operating Account the unexpended balance of the member's Fiscal Year Nine [~~Seven~~] Operating Account, not to exceed \$25,000 [~~\$15,000~~]. If the member is the chair of a committee, the member may transfer and have credited to that committee's operating account all or part of that \$25,000 and may have the remainder of that \$25,000 credited to the member's Fiscal Year Ten Operating Account.

(2) Strike proposed SECTION 5.05(d) of the resolution (page 22, lines 3-6) and substitute the following:

(d) Each member may carry forward and have credited to the member's Fiscal Year Eleven [~~Nine~~] Operating Account the unexpended balance of the member's Fiscal Year Ten [~~Eight~~] Operating Account, not to exceed \$25,000 [~~\$15,000~~]. If the member is the chair of a committee, the member may transfer and have credited to that committee's operating account all or part of that \$25,000 and may have the remainder of that \$25,000 credited to the member's Fiscal Year Eleven Operating Account.

Amendment No. 2 was adopted.

Amendment No. 3

Representative Gallego offered the following amendment to **HR 3**:

Amend **HR 3** (the Housekeeping Resolution) by adding the following appropriately numbered section to Article 3 of the resolution:

SECTION 3. ____ . HOUSE RECYCLING PROGRAM. The Committee on House Administration, in coordination with the State Preservation Board, shall implement a program for recycling paper, plastic, and other recyclable materials from house offices.

(Harper-Brown in the chair)

Amendment No. 3 was adopted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following member was granted leave of absence for the remainder of today because of important business in the district:

Smithee on motion of Eiland.

HR 3 - (consideration continued)

Amendment No. 4

Representative Hodge offered the following amendment to **HR 3**:

Amend **HR 3** (the Housekeeping Resolution) by striking the period at the end of SECTION 5.045(a) (page 21 line 13) and substituting the following:

; provided, however, that if a member deposits funds in the member's operating account to cover a negative balance under this subsection and the member later has a positive balance in the member's operating account at the end of a calendar

month, the member may use the excess money in the member's operating account at that time to reimburse the member in an amount not to exceed the amount the member earlier deposited to cover the negative balance.

Amendment No. 4 was adopted.

(Speaker in the chair)

HR 3, as amended, was adopted by (Record 3): 128 Yeas, 11 Nays, 1 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Allen; Alonzo; Alvarado; Anchia; Berman; Bohac; Bolton; Brown, B.; Brown, F.; Burnam; Button; Chavez; Chisum; Christian; Cohen; Coleman; Cook; Corte; Craddick; Crownover; Darby; Davis, J.; Davis, Y.; Deshotel; Driver; Dukes; Dunnam; Dutton; Edwards; Eiland; Eissler; Elkins; England; Farabee; Farias; Farrar; Fletcher; Flores; Gallego; Geren; Giddings; Gonzales; Gonzalez Toureilles; Guillen; Gutierrez; Hamilton; Hancock; Hardcastle; Harper-Brown; Heflin; Hernandez; Herrero; Hilderbran; Hochberg; Hodge; Homer; Hopson; Howard, C.; Howard, D.; Hughes; Hunter; Isett; Jackson; Jones; Keffer; Kent; King, P.; King, S.; King, T.; Kleinschmidt; Kolkhorst; Kuempel; Legler; Leibowitz; Lewis; Lucio; Madden; Maldonado; Mallory Caraway; Marquez; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McCall; McClendon; McReynolds; Menendez; Merritt; Miklos; Moody; Morrison; Naishtat; Oliveira; Olivo; Ortiz; Otto; Parker; Patrick; Peña; Phillips; Pickett; Pierson; Pitts; Quintanilla; Raymond; Riddle; Rios Ybarra; Ritter; Rodriguez; Rose; Sheffield; Shelton; Smith, T.; Smith, W.; Solomons; Strama; Swinford; Thibaut; Truitt; Turner, C.; Turner, S.; Vaught; Veasey; Villarreal; Vo; Walle; Weber; Woolley; Zerwas.

Nays — Anderson; Aycock; Callegari; Crabb; Creighton; Flynn; Harless; Hartnett; Miller, D.; Miller, S.; Orr.

Present, not voting — Mr. Speaker(C).

Absent, Excused — Bonnen; Branch; Castro; Frost; Gattis; Paxton; Smithee; Taylor.

Absent — Laubenberg; Thompson.

STATEMENT OF VOTE

When Record No. 3 was taken, I was absent because of important business in the district. Had I been present I would have voted no.

Laubenberg

REASONS FOR VOTE

This increase is in line for the inflation rate average for 2007 and 2008 combined with the average population growth for the past two years. This total is 11.86 percent the previous amount of \$11,750. Add the 11.86 percent, which is \$1,393.55, which is \$13,143.55. The \$13,250 is in line with inflation and population growth combined.

Legler
Sheffield

I voted for **HR 3** today because the increase in members' budgets authorized by **HR 3** is \$2.7 million less than the increase proposed by the previous administration during the House Rules working group meeting on December 5, 2008. I believe a modest increase in the members' monthly budgets for session months is justified to account for the state employee pay raise authorized by the 80th Legislature. I also believe that, at a time when the legislature is asking state agencies to tighten their belts, the house should follow suit. It is my hope that the Committee on House Administration will be mindful of the state's economic condition when considering whether to authorize an extension of the increase in our monthly budgets.

Gallego, Hamilton, Hopson,
Kolkhorst, Martinez, Menendez, and
Merritt

I voted yes because this is a \$2.7 million reduction from the original proposal by the previous administration on December 5, 2008.

Button, Deshotel, Jones, Kent,
Kleinschmidt, Peña, Raymond,
Shelton, and Vaught

HR 121 - ADOPTED
(by Giddings)

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HR 121, Honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the 80th anniversary of his birth.

HR 121 was adopted.

On motion of Representatives Dukes and Alonzo, the names of all the members of the house were added to **HR 121** as signers thereof.

ADJOURNMENT

Representative Merritt moved that the house adjourn until 10 a.m. Thursday, January 22 in memory of Rose Kirkpatrick of Longview.

The motion prevailed.

The house accordingly, at 11:26 a.m., adjourned until 10 a.m. Thursday, January 22.

ADDENDUM

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

The following messages from the senate were today received by the house:

