

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
MODIFICATIONS TO AUTHORITY FOR
COUNTY OWNERSHIP AND CARE OF CEMETERIES**

WHEREAS, Section 713.027 of the Texas Health and Safety Code limits the authority to own, operate, and maintain a cemetery to a county with a population of 8,200 or less; and

WHEREAS, Section 713.028 of the Texas Health and Safety Code limits a commissioners court's authority to use public funds and county resources to maintain a cemetery unless it contains a grave marker more than fifty years old; and

WHEREAS, the recent discovery and subsequent exhumation of ninety-five bodies of individuals who died and were buried in Fort Bend County more than one hundred years ago while part of the convict leasing system has identified an inability of Fort Bend County to assist in a solution that would recognize the historical significance of the finding and secure a final resting place for the deceased; and

WHEREAS, legislative change is necessary to modify Chapter 713 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to provide Fort Bend County the same authority currently afforded to smaller counties to address the community's concerns regarding the recently discovered bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, finds that this resolution serves a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County supports legislation to modify Chapter 713 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to allow Fort Bend County to own, operate, and maintain a cemetery; and use public funds and county resources to perform such.

Adopted by the Fort Bend County Commissioner's Court this 5th day of March, 2019.

By: _____
 KP George
 County Judge

By: _____
 Vincent Morales
 Commissioner Pct. 1

By: _____
 James "Grady" Prestage
 Commissioner Pct. 2

By: _____
 W. A. "Andy" Meyers
 Commissioner Pct. 3

By: _____
 Ken R. DeMerchant
 Commissioner Pct. 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk