

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1839

A RESOLUTION recognizing the 150th anniversary of the dispersion of the free state legislature.

WHEREAS, One of our state's most exciting events occurred nearly 150 years ago on July 4, 1856, when Col. Edwin V. Sumner, on orders of Franklin Pierce, President of the United States, dispersed the free state legislature meeting in Constitution Hall—Topeka; and

WHEREAS, Historians have said that if shots had been fired that day on Kansas Avenue, the Civil War would have begun then, five years earlier than it did; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Legislature in 1998 appropriated funds to Friends of the Free State Capitol to purchase Constitution Hall—Topeka, thereby preventing its demolition and assisting in steps toward its restoration; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service in 2001 registered Constitution Hall—Topeka for its importance in drafting the state's first free state constitution and for being an historic site of the underground railroad; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas State Historical Society in 2005 recognized that Constitution Hall—Topeka is a nationally significant historic site eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Efforts are being made for the summer of 2006 in downtown Topeka to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the dispersion of the free state legislature: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* In recognition of the glorious history of the State of Kansas, we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the dispersion of the free state legislature.

Senate Resolution No. 1839 was sponsored by Senators Kelly, Hensley and V. Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*