

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1083

By: Collins

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution directing the Oklahoma Historical Society to study the feasibility of acquiring certain property as a historical site; requiring certain report; directing distribution; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the establishment of the boundaries of Oklahoma has an important and interesting history; and

WHEREAS, the "Initial Point" is the site in Oklahoma which marks the initial point from which the General Land Office surveyed the Indian Territory for subdivision of the western half of the state; and

WHEREAS, the site of the Initial Point monument is located in Murray County on the north edge of the Arbuckle Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Point is marked with a sandstone pillar; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Point monument was erected in 1870 by E.N. Darling, who surveyed the land of the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations as described in the Treaty of June 22, 1855; and

WHEREAS, those earlier surveyors, using the public-land survey system of the United States, established a principal meridian and base line to be known by the designation of the Indian Base Line and the Indian Meridian Line; and

WHEREAS, land on which the initial point is located is now in private ownership, inaccessible by the public; and

WHEREAS, because of the historical significance of the Initial Point, the site should be accessible to every Oklahoman.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. A. The Oklahoma Historical Society shall study the feasibility of acquiring ownership of or an easement to the site of the Initial Point to allow public access to the site. The Society shall also evaluate the feasibility and cost of developing the site as an historical site.

B. The Oklahoma Historical Society shall develop a list of options and recommendations for development of the Initial Point site and shall submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature not later than December 1, 1998.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of State shall distribute copies of this resolution to each member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

46-2-8906

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