

By: Rogers

H.C.R. No. 11

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Bible has filled many roles in the saga of Texas,
2 serving as a social and cultural touchstone that has been integral
3 to the state's history and development; and

4 WHEREAS, In the early 1800s, as settlement of Texas gained
5 momentum, the Bible provided a vital cultural link between Catholic
6 Tejanos and Protestant Anglo Americans; although their backgrounds
7 differed in many respects, shared traditions helped to unite them
8 and to further their pursuit of greater freedom and, ultimately,
9 independence from Spanish and later Mexican rule; and

10 WHEREAS, During the Texas Revolution, such heroic figures as
11 Sam Houston, William Travis, Juan Seguin, and Davy Crockett carried
12 their Bibles for wisdom and inspiration; a Bible believed to be Sam
13 Houston's own has been used to swear in more than 30 Texas governors
14 in an enduring inaugural tradition, and it serves as a powerful
15 symbol of continuity and state leadership; and

16 WHEREAS, Comprehensive recordkeeping was not carried out by
17 local and state government during the 19th century; instead, life
18 events such as births, marriages, and deaths were written in family
19 Bibles; many of these cherished volumes were passed down through
20 the generations and are now included in the state's archives,
21 providing a vital resource for historians; and

22 WHEREAS, The State of Texas grants official recognition to
23 symbols that resonate broadly with the public and that have played
24 an important part in shaping our state's identity; as a prominent

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1 element in the rich fabric of our Texas heritage, the Bible is truly
2 deserving of such acknowledgment; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,
4 3rd Called Session, hereby designate the Bible as the official
5 state book of Texas.