

By: King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 134

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the
2 Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation are celebrating the 100th
3 anniversary of Texas State Parks in 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature organized the six-member
5 State Parks Board in 1923 to locate sites for a state parks system;
6 the effort was intended to create more overnight camping locations
7 to serve the increased number of Texans who had begun traveling by
8 automobile; a decade later, during the Great Depression, members of
9 the Civilian Conservation Corps established by President
10 Franklin D. Roosevelt helped build facilities at parks across the
11 state; these included such iconic structures as the pavilion at
12 Garner State Park and the Indian Lodge at Davis Mountains State
13 Park, both of which continue to be enjoyed by visitors today; and

14 WHEREAS, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was
15 officially established in 1963, when Governor John Connally merged
16 the State Parks Board with the Game and Fish Commission; soon after,
17 during an era known as the "Golden Age of Texas State Parks,"
18 increased revenue streams led to the refurbishment of existing
19 parks and the development of new ones, among which were Pedernales
20 Falls, Mustang Island, Galveston Island, and McKinney Falls State
21 Parks and Lost Maples State Natural Area; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1993, Texas lawmakers dedicated a portion of
23 state taxes on sporting goods sales to provide stable funding for
24 state parks, and in 2019, Texas voters passed a constitutional

1 amendment to ensure that all funding from the sporting goods sales
2 tax will benefit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the
3 Texas Historical Commission; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, the Texas State Parks system encompasses
5 481,000 acres of water sources, such as aquifers, rivers, and
6 reservoirs, as well as some 640,000 acres of critical habitat for
7 various wildlife, including more than 50 threatened and endangered
8 species; in addition, state parks contribute to the physical and
9 emotional well-being of countless Texans, and they have played an
10 instrumental role in the economic vitality of rural communities;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The state parks of Texas offer ample opportunities
13 for outdoor recreation while helping to conserve the natural
14 resources of the Lone Star State, and it is a pleasure to join in
15 celebrating the centennial of these beloved public areas that have
16 been enjoyed by generations of Texans; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of Texas State
19 Parks and extend to all those associated with the Texas Parks and
20 Wildlife Department and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
21 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
23 for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Parks and
24 Wildlife Foundation as an expression of high regard by the Texas
25 House of Representatives.