

1-1 By: Flores (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 16
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House March 31, 2003;
1-3 April 3, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 15, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 15, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has customarily recognized a
1-8 variety of official state symbols as tangible representations of
1-9 the state's historical and cultural heritage; and

1-10 WHEREAS, Like the square dance, the guitar, and the rodeo,
1-11 tortilla chips and salsa are deeply rooted in Texas tradition and
1-12 enjoy popularity throughout the length and breadth of the state;
1-13 stocked in countless kitchens, they are brought out for solitary
1-14 refreshment and for social gatherings of virtually every
1-15 description and level of formality; and

1-16 WHEREAS, The primary ingredients of chips and salsa have
1-17 nourished the people of this land for centuries; corn, peppers, and
1-18 tomatoes all originated in the Western Hemisphere and were being
1-19 cultivated by Native Americans along the Rio Grande when the
1-20 Spaniards, who introduced onions to the New World, arrived in
1-21 Texas; tortillas, developed in prehistoric times by the Indians of
1-22 Latin America, have likewise long been a staple in parts of the
1-23 state; and

1-24 WHEREAS, In addition to their traditional importance as a
1-25 foodstuff, peppers, onions, and tomatoes have played a significant
1-26 role in Texas folk medicine, and their value in fighting illness is
1-27 being increasingly recognized by modern science; and

1-28 WHEREAS, Together with corn, these three plants also play a
1-29 notable economic role in the state; in recent years, onions have
1-30 ranked as the number one cash truck crop in Texas, while corn has
1-31 accounted for about five percent of the state's agricultural
1-32 economy; nationwide in 2000, Texas ranked 1st in the production of
1-33 jalapeño peppers, 4th in the production of onions, and 16th in the
1-34 production of tomatoes, while a 2002 report ranks the state 10th in
1-35 the production of corn; and

1-36 WHEREAS, The importance of these crops in Texas is reflected
1-37 by such celebrations as the annual Corn Festival in Holland, Hot
1-38 Pepper Festival in Palestine, and Tomato Festival in Jacksonville,
1-39 as well as onion festivals in Nooday, Presidio, and Weslaco; salsa
1-40 itself enjoys a starring role at the Three Rivers Salsa Festival and
1-41 at other hotly contested competitions in Houston and Austin; and

1-42 WHEREAS, Spectacular sales figures underscore what Texans
1-43 already know: that tortilla chips and salsa enjoy popularity
1-44 ratings in the stratosphere; moreover, Texas chip and salsa plants
1-45 now command a major share of their respective national markets;
1-46 joining the state's oldest and largest salsa manufacturer, which
1-47 began production in San Antonio in 1947, smaller new salsa firms
1-48 continue to spring up, often inspired by a cherished family recipe
1-49 and encouraged by Texans' insatiable demand for this zesty
1-50 concoction; and

1-51 WHEREAS, Folk foods that have become commercial giants, chips
1-52 and salsa stand out among Texas snacks because of their historic
1-53 origins and universal appeal; embraced today by Texans of every
1-54 ethnic background, they constitute a much-savored part of our
1-55 shared cultural identity; now, therefore, be it

1-56 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-57 hereby designate tortilla chips and salsa as the official State
1-58 Snack of Texas.

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