

1-1 By: Krusee (Senate Sponsor - Ogden) H.C.R. No. 89
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 16, 2003;
1-3 May 19, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 23, 2003, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 23, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The city of Hutto has long cherished as its symbol
1-8 one of the earth's most impressive animals, the hippopotamus; and

1-9 WHEREAS, A reported news story holds that in 1915 a passing
1-10 circus train stopped at the Hutto railroad station and a hippo from
1-11 the show escaped into the muddy environs of nearby Cottonwood
1-12 Creek; recovering the hippo from such a spot proved no small feat,
1-13 and the adventure with the exotic animal became enshrined as a
1-14 legend in local lore; and

1-15 WHEREAS, The hippo serves as the community identifier for all
1-16 of Hutto, as well as the official mascot of Hutto High
1-17 School--believed to be the only high school in the country
1-18 represented by this massive creature--and of the Hutto Independent
1-19 School District; the high school's costumed mascot has appeared at
1-20 numerous sporting events, parades, and other special occasions,
1-21 drawing media attention and representing both the school and
1-22 community in a unique, fun, and positive manner; and

1-23 WHEREAS, Hutto Olde Tyme Days, an annual three-day event
1-24 sponsored by the Hutto Chamber of Commerce, is also known as the
1-25 Hippo Festival; now in its 18th year, the festival provides
1-26 abundant family recreation and serves as a unifying force in the
1-27 community, while bringing additional revenue into the Hutto area;
1-28 the city council has decreed that during the course of the
1-29 festivities, each third weekend in October, the town of Hutto shall
1-30 be known as Hippo, Texas; and

1-31 WHEREAS, The name hippopotamus is derived from the Greek
1-32 phrase meaning "river horse"; one of the largest land animals, the
1-33 adult hippo weighs almost five tons and yet is quite agile in the
1-34 water; though herbivorous, it is ferocious when threatened or angry
1-35 and is considered to be the most dangerous animal, other than man,
1-36 in all of Africa; and

1-37 WHEREAS, According to an African folk tale, God created the
1-38 hippopotamus and told it to cut grass for the other animals; when
1-39 the hippo discovered how hot Africa is, it asked God to let it stay
1-40 in the water during the day and cut grass during the cooler night;
1-41 God agreed reluctantly, fearing the hippo would eat the fish in the
1-42 river, but the hippo pledged to feed only on vegetation and remained
1-43 true to its word; and

1-44 WHEREAS, For roughly a century, the imposing hippopotamus has
1-45 been treasured by the people of Hutto as an emblem of their town and
1-46 the surrounding area; inspiring pride and community solidarity, the
1-47 hippo symbol has further played a significant role in promoting
1-48 economic development and tourism in Hutto; and

1-49 WHEREAS, This imposing mammal is so ingrained in the identity
1-50 of this fine community that when the name "Hutto" is mentioned, the
1-51 natural response is "Hippos"; now, therefore, be it

1-52 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-53 hereby designate Hutto as the "Hippo Capital of Texas" and commend
1-54 the citizens of this fine community for their outstanding civic
1-55 achievements and public spirit.

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