HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1   WHEREAS, The State of Texas has customarily recognized a

2   variety of official symbols as tangible representations of the

3   state's culture and natural history; and

4   WHEREAS, Like the bluebonnet and the pecan tree, Texas purple

5   sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) is indigenous to the Lone Star State

6   and a treasured part of the Texas landscape; also known as cenizo,

7   Texas silverleaf, barometer bush, and Texas ranger, the plant grows

8   naturally on the Edwards Plateau and the South Texas Plains; and

9   WHEREAS, This hardy evergreen was first described by Jean

10   Louis Berlandier, a botanist who collected specimens of Texas flora

11   in the late 1820s and early 1830s; bearing silvery gray to green

12   foliage, the shrub bursts into color year-round soon after a rain,

13   with blossoms varying from purple to lavender, pink, blue, and

14   white; and

15   WHEREAS, Native Americans brewed a pleasant herbal tea from

16   Texas purple sage and used it to treat chills and fever; the shrub

17   also provides forage for cattle, protection for birds, and a

18   nesting place for songbirds, including the state bird of Texas, the

19   mockingbird; in addition, the plant serves a multitude of design

20   functions, working well as an ornamental shrub or as a hedge,

21   screen, windbreak, or foundation planting; and

22   WHEREAS, Texas purple sage has been described as a plant that

23   "can face droughts, freezes, high winds, salt spray, hungry deer,

24   and blazing heat and keep right on performing beautifully," and

1　such fortitude is a quality highly admired in the Lone Star State;

2　and

3　　　WHEREAS, In view of this plant's important role in the

4　ecology of Texas and its usefulness to the people of this land from

5　ancient to modern times, it is altogether fitting that the Texas

6　purple sage be appropriately recognized; now, therefore, be it

7　　　RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas

8　hereby designate Texas purple sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) as the

9　official State Native Shrub of Texas.