

By: Bonnen

H.C.R. No. 71

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.