

1-1 By: Bonnen (Senate Sponsor - Jackson) H.C.R. No. 71  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 25, 2005;  
1-3 April 26, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Administration; May 6, 2005, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 6, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1-10 WHEREAS, Like the bluebonnet and the pecan tree, Texas purple  
1-11 sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) is indigenous to the Lone Star State  
1-12 and a treasured part of the Texas landscape; also known as cenizo,  
1-13 Texas silverleaf, barometer bush, and Texas ranger, the plant grows  
1-14 naturally on the Edwards Plateau and the South Texas Plains; and

1-15 WHEREAS, This hardy evergreen was first described by Jean  
1-16 Louis Berlandier, a botanist who collected specimens of Texas flora  
1-17 in the late 1820s and early 1830s; bearing silvery gray to green  
1-18 foliage, the shrub bursts into color year-round soon after a rain,  
1-19 with blossoms varying from purple to lavender, pink, blue, and  
1-20 white; and

1-21 WHEREAS, Native Americans brewed a pleasant herbal tea from  
1-22 Texas purple sage and used it to treat chills and fever; the shrub  
1-23 also provides forage for cattle, protection for birds, and a  
1-24 nesting place for songbirds, including the state bird of Texas, the  
1-25 mockingbird; in addition, the plant serves a multitude of design  
1-26 functions, working well as an ornamental shrub or as a hedge,  
1-27 screen, windbreak, or foundation planting; and

1-28 WHEREAS, Texas purple sage has been described as a plant that  
1-29 "can face droughts, freezes, high winds, salt spray, hungry deer,  
1-30 and blazing heat and keep right on performing beautifully," and  
1-31 such fortitude is a quality highly admired in the Lone Star State;  
1-32 and

1-33 WHEREAS, In view of this plant's important role in the  
1-34 ecology of Texas and its usefulness to the people of this land from  
1-35 ancient to modern times, it is altogether fitting that the Texas  
1-36 purple sage be appropriately recognized; now, therefore, be it

1-37 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-38 hereby designate Texas purple sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) as the  
1-39 official State Native Shrub of Texas.

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