

1-1 By: Jackson S.C.R. No. 7
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 28, 2009; March 13, 2009,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Government
1-4 Organization; April 7, 2009, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 7, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The State of Texas traditionally has recognized a
1-8 variety of official symbols as tangible representations of the
1-9 proud character and colorful heritage of the Lone Star State; and

1-10 WHEREAS, Select members of the animal kingdom, including the
1-11 longhorn, the armadillo, and the Guadalupe bass, are among the
1-12 species that have been officially recognized, and their designation
1-13 has served to draw attention to the great biological diversity of
1-14 the Texas landscape and to highlight creatures who are unique to or
1-15 closely identified with the state; and

1-16 WHEREAS, The large variety of natural habitats in Texas as
1-17 well as the state's central location on the North American
1-18 continent have given it a rich array of amphibians; of the many
1-19 members of that class that share our lands and waters, one species
1-20 comes immediately to the forefront as an especially worthy symbol
1-21 of the state: the Texas toad; and

1-22 WHEREAS, Aptly named, the Texas toad lives primarily in the
1-23 Lone Star State, though it is also found in the neighboring areas of
1-24 New Mexico, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico; known by the scientific
1-25 name *Bufo speciosus*, it is one of the most abundant toad species in
1-26 Texas and resides in nearly all regions of the state with the
1-27 exception of the far eastern counties and parts of the western
1-28 Panhandle; and

1-29 WHEREAS, Ranging in color from gray to brown with dark
1-30 irregular markings, the Texas toad can grow to more than three
1-31 inches in length and is easily identified by the black tubercles on
1-32 its hind feet and by the absence of the back stripe that is seen on
1-33 many other toads; and

1-34 WHEREAS, These adaptable amphibians demonstrate the hardy
1-35 determination that Texans are known for; in order to survive in a
1-36 place where the sun is fierce and water can be scarce, they are
1-37 adept at taking refuge beneath rocks and in below-ground havens;
1-38 while most well suited to live in areas of sandy soil, they also
1-39 thrive in other locales and are found in environments that range
1-40 from desert to grasslands to wooded areas; and

1-41 WHEREAS, Relishing nothing more than a cooling shower, Texas
1-42 toads emerge in huge numbers following a summer rain and head for
1-43 the nearest pool of water in hopes of finding a mate; the toads have
1-44 a distinctive sound, with males emitting a call of explosive trills
1-45 to charm their lady friends; and

1-46 WHEREAS, Possessing a Buddha-like visage, this notable
1-47 creature is a common sight across much of Texas, and its indomitable
1-48 spirit and unique relationship with the state for which it was named
1-49 make it a most appropriate symbol of the Lone Star State; now,
1-50 therefore, be it

1-51 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
1-52 hereby designate the Texas toad as the official State Amphibian of
1-53 Texas.

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