

By: Cain, White, et al.

H.C.R. No. 84

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Texas have long enjoyed a reputation for
2 developing original and imaginative ideas that have been embraced
3 by individuals throughout the nation and beyond; and

4 WHEREAS, One such innovation is the domino game 42, a very
5 popular pastime that was created in the Lone Star State; and

6 WHEREAS, According to research conducted in 1985 by
7 journalist Christopher Evans of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the
8 game, also called "Texas 42," dates to 1887 and was developed by two
9 enterprising boys in the North Texas town of Trapp Spring, known
10 today as Garner; and

11 WHEREAS, There, 12-year-old William A. Thomas and
12 14-year-old Walter Earl one day found themselves in deep trouble
13 with their parents when they were discovered in a barn hayloft
14 playing the card game auction whist, which is similar to the modern
15 game of bridge; card games were considered sinful in the boys'
16 devoutly Baptist families, and William and Walter were disciplined
17 for their actions; and

18 WHEREAS, The punishment did not end their love of whist,
19 however, and they went on to devise a similar four-player game that
20 used dominoes instead of cards; because there was no prohibition
21 within their faith against playing dominoes, William and Walter
22 were able to show their friends how to play, and their invention was
23 soon taken up by other local residents; the activity later became
24 popular in Fannin County after the Thomas and Earl families moved to

1 the town of Windom; and

2 WHEREAS, Through the decades, the boys' creation spread far
3 and wide and became known as 42, an entertaining contest of skill
4 and chance that is enjoyed by countless people the world over; the
5 game is a true Lone Star original and a testament to the ingenuity
6 and fun-loving nature of Texans, making it a most fitting symbol for
7 our state; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby designate 42 as the official State Table Game of Texas.