

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Congregation Beth Israel of Austin is celebrating
2 the 135th anniversary of its founding in 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, On September 24, 1876, a group of 30 Jews gathered at
4 the Odd Fellows Hall at Sixth Street and Congress Avenue and started
5 Congregation Beth Israel; members completed their first temple in
6 1884 at the corner of 11th Street and San Jacinto Boulevard and
7 hired the first full-time rabbi in 1892; through the decades, the
8 congregation has grown and prospered, becoming a focal point of
9 worship and social interaction for the Jewish community of Central
10 Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, Beth Israel has played a vital role in the lives of
12 its congregants over the course of its history; education for both
13 young and old is a continuing priority, and great emphasis is placed
14 on Hebrew school and the study of the Torah; and

15 WHEREAS, As Austin's population has expanded, so too has the
16 congregation's membership, which nearly doubled between 1983 and
17 1995; Beth Israel's mission has been furthered by such groups as the
18 Sisterhood and the Brotherhood; founded in 1940, the CBI Sisterhood
19 carries out a variety of educational, social, and religious
20 programs and projects; the men's service committee, the
21 Brotherhood, was begun in 1955 and sponsors cultural and
22 recreational activities in addition to its myriad other
23 contributions to the congregation; and

24 WHEREAS, Beth Israel is also a positive force in the greater

1 Austin community; its Mitzvah of the Month initiative provides
2 donations to worthy organizations that have included the Town Lake
3 Animal Center, Micah 6 of Austin, SafePlace, and Barbara Jordan
4 Elementary School; and

5 WHEREAS, Congregation Beth Israel has long served as a source
6 of inspiration and guidance to those who worship there, and its
7 continued existence is a tribute to the unwavering commitment of
8 its members and clergy, both past and present; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate all those associated with
11 Congregation Beth Israel on its 135th anniversary and extend to
12 them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Congregation Beth Israel as an expression of high
15 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Naishtat

H.R. No. 178

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 178 was adopted by the House on
February 2, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House