

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 178

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 Fellow's Hall at Sixth Street and Congress Avenue and  
5 started Congregation Beth Israel; members completed their first  
6 temple in 1884 at the corner of 11th Street and San Jacinto  
7 Boulevard and hired the first full-time rabbi in 1892; through the  
8 decades, the congregation has grown and prospered, becoming a focal  
9 point of worship and social interaction for the Jewish community of  
10 Central 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.