

1-1 By: Shapiro S.C.R. No. 39
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 29, 2011; March 31, 2011, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
1-4 April 26, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; April 26, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, As a means of memorializing the victims and the
1-8 survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides that have occurred
1-9 throughout history, the Legislature of the State of Texas joins
1-10 institutions around the world in recognizing the month of April as
1-11 Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month; and

1-12 WHEREAS, Across the globe, those atrocities known as
1-13 genocides have had their origins in the stratification of society
1-14 and the dehumanization of a group of people by those who harbor
1-15 intolerance, hatred, and violent proclivities; and

1-16 WHEREAS, Many of these genocides have stemmed from events
1-17 that occurred in the month of April, or have had defining moments at
1-18 that time of year; in April of 1933, the Nazis issued a decree
1-19 preparing the way for the "Final Solution" to all of Jewish faith or
1-20 descent, and the tragedy that ensued was one of the world's most
1-21 horrific; and

1-22 WHEREAS, In April of 1975, the Khmer Rouge entered the
1-23 Cambodian capital and initiated massacres that led to the death of
1-24 two million people; in April of 1992, the siege of Sarajevo began,
1-25 leading to the deaths of more than 2,000 Bosnian Serbs; in April of
1-26 2003, the displacement of Darfurians began in Sudan, leading to
1-27 hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions;
1-28 and in April of 1994, the Rwandan president's plane was shot down,
1-29 leading to the killing of moderate leaders by Hutu hardliners and
1-30 the later slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis; and

1-31 WHEREAS, In 2009, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed
1-32 Senate Bill 482, which created the Texas Holocaust and Genocide
1-33 Commission; the commission is dedicated to obtaining, organizing,
1-34 and distributing information on genocides and to ensuring that
1-35 schools, organizations, and communities have access to this
1-36 genocide information and history; and

1-37 WHEREAS, The legislature has chosen the month of April to
1-38 emphasize the need to heighten public awareness of the early stages
1-39 of human behavior that spawn acts of genocide, the need to build
1-40 strong communities and prevent future genocides, and the need on
1-41 the state and national levels to continue to honor all who have been
1-42 victimized by genocide; now, therefore, be it

1-43 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
1-44 hereby declare the month of April each year from 2011 through 2020
1-45 Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in tribute to all whose
1-46 lives were touched by genocide and as a reminder of the need for the
1-47 protection of human rights and for vigilance against the forces of
1-48 intolerance; and, be it further

1-49 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in
1-50 recognition of Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month.

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