

1-1 By: Harper-Brown (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.C.R. No. 54  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2013;  
 1-3 May 2, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Administration; May 8, 2013, reported favorably by the following  
 1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 8, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8			X	
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The purple martin is one of this country's  
 1-17 best-loved songbirds, and the city of Grand Prairie has become a  
 1-18 leading center for purple martin conservation in the Lone Star  
 1-19 State; and

1-20 WHEREAS, Members of the swallow family, purple martins are  
 1-21 admired for their iridescent blue-black coloring, their pleasant  
 1-22 song, and their graceful aerial acrobatics; they feed on insects,  
 1-23 catching all of their food in flight, and drink by skimming the  
 1-24 surface of a pond and scooping up water with their lower bills; and

1-25 WHEREAS, Purple martins fly north in the spring to breed in  
 1-26 Mexico, the United States, and Canada; after their young are  
 1-27 hatched and able to fly, a process that takes approximately 70 days,  
 1-28 the birds migrate south again to their winter range in the lowlands  
 1-29 east of the Andes Mountains; and

1-30 WHEREAS, In the western part of North America, purple martins  
 1-31 still nest in natural cavities in trees and cliff faces, but east of  
 1-32 the Rocky Mountains, for more than a century now, the bird has  
 1-33 nested almost exclusively in artificial housing supplied by humans;  
 1-34 today, it is estimated that more than a million "landlords" put up  
 1-35 housing for purple martins, who typically return to their last  
 1-36 successful homesite; and

1-37 WHEREAS, Since the founding of the Purple Martin Landlords of  
 1-38 North Texas in 1999, the group's members have supported research  
 1-39 concerning these birds and have worked to educate area citizens  
 1-40 about their needs; based in Grand Prairie, the club has further  
 1-41 promoted the construction of purple martin housing in various  
 1-42 public locations around the city, including at schools, libraries,  
 1-43 the municipal golf course, the Kirby Creek Natural Science  
 1-44 Education Center, and Loyd Park on Joe Pool Lake; and

1-45 WHEREAS, Each year, the mayor and city council of Grand  
 1-46 Prairie proclaim Purple Martin Day to raise public awareness and  
 1-47 encourage support for the perpetuation of the species; and

1-48 WHEREAS, Grand Prairie residents have demonstrated a special  
 1-49 affinity for purple martins and devoted considerable time and  
 1-50 resources to help them flourish; thanks to the keen interest and  
 1-51 energetic efforts of these citizens, springtime in the city now  
 1-52 heralds the return of large numbers of this shimmering bird, whose  
 1-53 distinctive song and aerial displays have become a source of  
 1-54 immense delight to countless observers; now, therefore, be it

1-55 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
 1-56 hereby designate Grand Prairie as the official Purple Martin  
 1-57 Conservation Capital of Texas.

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