

By: Springer

H.C.R. No. 87

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The diversity of Texas agriculture is one of the  
2 strengths of our economy, and over the years, the pumpkin has become  
3 an important crop in the Lone Star State; and

4           WHEREAS, A variety of squash that is native to North America,  
5 the pumpkin can vary in size from one pound to over a thousand;  
6 while pumpkins are usually orange or yellow, they are sometimes  
7 also dark green, white, red, or gray; they are remarkable for their  
8 durability, for they can be grown quickly and then stored for as  
9 long as six months; pumpkins are capable of being cultivated on  
10 every continent on earth except Antarctica; and

11           WHEREAS, With its distinctive shape and lightly ribbed  
12 surface, the pumpkin is especially associated with two holidays,  
13 Halloween, when carved jack-o'-lanterns light up the front porches  
14 of houses across America, and Thanksgiving, when no family feast is  
15 complete without a slice of pumpkin pie; each year, 80 percent of  
16 pumpkin sales occur in October; and

17           WHEREAS, Texans have long made great use of the pumpkin;  
18 before refrigeration, ranchers relied on the hardy pumpkin to feed  
19 their livestock during the winter months; once considered a cure  
20 for freckles and snakebite, the pumpkin is now valued by  
21 health-conscious Texans as a good source of vitamin A, potassium,  
22 and fiber; in addition, Texas has become the fourth leading state in  
23 commercial pumpkin production, growing between 15 and 20 million of  
24 them annually, mostly in West Texas; pumpkins generate

1 approximately \$10 million for the Texas economy every year; and

2       WHEREAS, During a time when a majority of Texans are living in  
3 cities, the pumpkin has begun to represent more than just  
4 trick-or-treat or a favorite type of pie, and such distinctive  
5 varieties of pumpkin as the Fairytale, the Caspar, and the Atlantic  
6 Giant have come to be used by families to decorate their homes,  
7 serving as welcome reminders of the Lone Star State's traditional  
8 rural heritage; now, therefore, be it

9       RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
10 hereby designate the pumpkin as the official State Squash of Texas.