

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.