

1-1 By: Springer (Senate Sponsor - Duncan) H.C.R. No. 87
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2013;
 1-3 May 6, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Administration; May 15, 2013, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 15, 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 diversity of Texas agriculture is one of the
 1-17 strengths of our economy, and over the years, the pumpkin has become
 1-18 an important crop in the Lone Star State; and

1-19 WHEREAS, A variety of squash that is native to North America,
 1-20 the pumpkin can vary in size from one pound to over a thousand;
 1-21 while pumpkins are usually orange or yellow, they are sometimes
 1-22 also dark green, white, red, or gray; they are remarkable for their
 1-23 durability, for they can be grown quickly and then stored for as
 1-24 long as six months; pumpkins are capable of being cultivated on
 1-25 every continent on earth except Antarctica; and

1-26 WHEREAS, With its distinctive shape and lightly ribbed
 1-27 surface, the pumpkin is especially associated with two holidays,
 1-28 Halloween, when carved jack-o'-lanterns light up the front porches
 1-29 of houses across America, and Thanksgiving, when no family feast is
 1-30 complete without a slice of pumpkin pie; each year, 80 percent of
 1-31 pumpkin sales occur in October; and

1-32 WHEREAS, Texans have long made great use of the pumpkin;
 1-33 before refrigeration, ranchers relied on the hardy pumpkin to feed
 1-34 their livestock during the winter months; once considered a cure
 1-35 for freckles and snakebite, the pumpkin is now valued by
 1-36 health-conscious Texans as a good source of vitamin A, potassium,
 1-37 and fiber; in addition, Texas has become the fourth leading state in
 1-38 commercial pumpkin production, growing between 15 and 20 million of
 1-39 them annually, mostly in West Texas; pumpkins generate
 1-40 approximately \$10 million for the Texas economy every year; and

1-41 WHEREAS, During a time when a majority of Texans are living in
 1-42 cities, the pumpkin has begun to represent more than just
 1-43 trick-or-treat or a favorite type of pie, and such distinctive
 1-44 varieties of pumpkin as the Fairytale, the Caspar, and the Atlantic
 1-45 Giant have come to be used by families to decorate their homes,
 1-46 serving as welcome reminders of the Lone Star State's traditional
 1-47 rural heritage; now, therefore, be it

1-48 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
 1-49 hereby designate the pumpkin as the official State Squash of Texas.

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