

1-1 By: Farney (Senate Sponsor - Van de Putte) H.C.R. No. 111  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 9, 2013;  
 1-3 May 9, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Administration; May 20, 2013, reported favorably by the following  
 1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 20, 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, Personal financial literacy is essential in making  
 1-17 the decisions required of all individuals in everyday life and is a  
 1-18 crucial part of becoming a responsible worker, business leader,  
 1-19 head of household, and citizen; and

1-20 WHEREAS, The ability to manage money effectively is a  
 1-21 lifelong skill that develops at a young age; however, this vital  
 1-22 subject often goes unaddressed in the classroom, as fewer than  
 1-23 one-third of all states mandate a course on personal finance to be  
 1-24 offered in high schools; and

1-25 WHEREAS, In 2008, the National Jump\$tart Coalition tested  
 1-26 nearly 7,000 12th-grade students on their level of financial  
 1-27 literacy, resulting in a mean score of 48.3 percent, the lowest  
 1-28 recorded in the history of the survey; this represented a drop of 10  
 1-29 percent from the baseline survey of 1997-1998; and

1-30 WHEREAS, A lack of adequate financial education can have  
 1-31 far-reaching effects on a young person's future, particularly as he  
 1-32 or she enters college; according to a 2009 survey of multiple  
 1-33 university campuses, students ranked poorly in financial knowledge  
 1-34 along such metrics as budgeting, retirement planning, and credit  
 1-35 use, despite the fact that the majority used credit cards; this  
 1-36 problem is especially acute when considering the alarming rate of  
 1-37 credit card debt among college students, with the average student  
 1-38 claiming \$4,100 in debt in 2009, compared to just under \$950 in  
 1-39 2004; and

1-40 WHEREAS, Personal financial literacy continues to be a  
 1-41 component of success and well-being in adulthood, yet studies show  
 1-42 that American adults are often ill-prepared for long-term monetary  
 1-43 concerns; the national personal savings rate fell sharply in the  
 1-44 years spanning 1980 to 2007 and remains low to this day, at 4.6  
 1-45 percent of disposable income; in addition, the 2013 Retirement  
 1-46 Confidence Survey found that only 66 percent of Americans reported  
 1-47 saving funds for retirement, down from 75 percent in 2009; and

1-48 WHEREAS, Research has shown a link between financial literacy  
 1-49 and higher net worth, improved spending and saving habits, lower  
 1-50 delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, and higher participation  
 1-51 rates in retirement plans; moreover, students from states with a  
 1-52 required financial education course were found to more often  
 1-53 display behaviors conducive to healthy money management; compared  
 1-54 to other young adults, they are more likely to save, pay off their  
 1-55 credit cards in full each month, and take modest financial risks,  
 1-56 and they are less likely to reach the maximum limit on their credit  
 1-57 cards, make late payments, and engage in compulsive buying; and

1-58 WHEREAS, Public, community, and private sector organizations  
 1-59 around the country are working to increase financial literacy rates  
 1-60 for Americans of all ages through media campaigns, websites, and  
 1-61 one-on-one counseling; as part of this outreach effort, a number of

2-1 agencies and groups have designated the month of April as Financial  
2-2 Literacy Month to highlight the importance of personal finance  
2-3 education and to encourage Americans to establish and maintain good  
2-4 saving and spending habits; and

2-5 WHEREAS, Far from being issues of individual responsibility,  
2-6 personal financial knowledge and awareness have broad implications  
2-7 for the economic welfare of our state and nation; the observance of  
2-8 Financial Literacy Month is a timely reminder of the right and  
2-9 obligation of all Texans to build on their understanding of fiscal  
2-10 matters in order to safeguard the future of their families and of  
2-11 society at large; now, therefore, be it

2-12 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
2-13 hereby designate April as Texas Personal Financial Literacy Month;  
2-14 and, be it further

2-15 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section  
2-16 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
2-17 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is passed.

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