

By: Branch

H.R. No. 758

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Citizens of Texas are marking the 178th anniversary  
2 of the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2,  
3 2014; and

4           WHEREAS, By the fall of 1835, tensions that would culminate  
5 in the Texas Revolution were coming to a head, and in December, a  
6 convention of delegates from every Texas municipality was called to  
7 meet in the new town of Washington on March 1, 1836; and

8           WHEREAS, On the first day of the convention, George C.  
9 Childress introduced a resolution calling for a committee to draft  
10 a declaration of independence; the measure was approved, and the  
11 convention president, Richard Ellis, appointed a five-member  
12 committee, with Mr. Childress as chair, to prepare the document;  
13 the resulting composition is generally believed to be almost  
14 entirely the work of Mr. Childress, who may have arrived at the  
15 convention with a draft that he had already written; and

16           WHEREAS, Patterned on the declaration of 1776, the Texas  
17 Declaration of Independence was presented to the convention on  
18 March 2; according to the report of an observer, the declaration was  
19 then "committed to a committee of the whole, reported without  
20 amendment, and unanimously adopted, in less than one hour from its  
21 first and only reading"; the motion to adopt was made by Sam  
22 Houston, whom the convention appointed two days later to take  
23 command of the Texas army; and

24           WHEREAS, Delegates also adopted a constitution for the new

1 Republic of Texas and elected an interim government; those chosen  
2 to serve were David G. Burnet, president, Lorenzo de Zavala, vice  
3 president, Samuel P. Carson, secretary of state, Thomas J. Rusk,  
4 secretary of war, Robert Potter, secretary of the navy, Bailey  
5 Hardeman, secretary of the treasury, and David Thomas, attorney  
6 general; the constitution was ratified by voters the following  
7 September, and the interim government served until that October,  
8 when regular elections were held; and

9       WHEREAS, News that the Alamo had fallen reached the  
10 convention on March 15, and two days later, reports that the Mexican  
11 army had advanced to within 60 miles of Washington prompted the  
12 delegates to hastily adjourn; little more than a month later,  
13 however, the Battle of San Jacinto made Texas independence a  
14 reality; and

15       WHEREAS, The Republic of Texas endured until December 29,  
16 1845, when Texas officially entered the Union as the 28th state;  
17 those nine years, when Texas enjoyed the status of an independent  
18 country, constitute a remarkable chapter in its history, and more  
19 than a century and a half after annexation, they continue to  
20 engender a special sense of pride and identity among its citizens;  
21 now, therefore, be it

22       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the 178th anniversary of the  
24 adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 2014.