

By: Naishtat

H.C.R. No. 65

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has traditionally designated a
2 variety of official state symbols that embody the proud spirit and
3 rich heritage of our state; and

4 WHEREAS, The bluebonnet, the Guadalupe bass, and the
5 mockingbird serve to represent the great diversity of the flora and
6 fauna of Texas, while the state dish, chili, aptly evokes our shared
7 culinary culture; and

8 WHEREAS, In keeping with this custom, the designation of the
9 western honey bee as the official state pollinator of Texas
10 constitutes an appropriate recognition of the importance of this
11 highly productive species found in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, Known to scientists as *Apis mellifera*, the western
13 honey bee is the most widely domesticated of the several honey bee
14 species that exist in the world and is a familiar sight in Texas,
15 where its distinctive black-and-yellow abdomen and its zigzagging
16 flight from flower to flower make the insect instantly
17 recognizable; referred to simply as the honey bee, it is renowned
18 for its ability to make its signature sweetener and, along with
19 other members of its genus, is the only insect that produces a food
20 eaten by humankind; and

21 WHEREAS, Even more significant than the production of honey,
22 however, is the honey bee's essential role in the pollination of
23 crops; this industrious insect enables the production of at least
24 90 commercially grown crops in North America, including 75 percent

1 of all fruits, nuts, and vegetables, contributing more than \$15
2 billion to the nation's economy every year; pollination by the
3 honey bee accounts for approximately 80 percent of all insect
4 pollination, far exceeding that of butterflies, beetles, and wasps;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The honey bee is critical to the agriculture and
7 commerce of this state, where the economic impact of the food and
8 fiber sector totals more than \$100 billion annually; to take but one
9 example, the bee helps Texas farmers to produce more cotton than
10 farmers anywhere else in the country; cash receipts from Texas
11 cotton in 2012 alone amounted to \$2.2 billion; and

12 WHEREAS, In recognition of this insect's importance, the City
13 of Austin passed a resolution forbidding the destruction of feral
14 bees within its city limits, instead allowing colonies to be
15 sustainably relocated by Central Texas Bee Rescue; and

16 WHEREAS, A creature as beautiful and memorable as the Texas
17 sky, the western honey bee works each day to preserve the balance of
18 nature, allowing our crops to flourish, the agriculture of Texas to
19 thrive, and our economy to grow, and its unique relationship to the
20 welfare of this land makes it a truly fitting symbol for the
21 majestic spirit of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby designate the western honey bee as the official state
24 pollinator of Texas.