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
- 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

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- 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
- 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
- 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.