

1-1 By: Naishtat (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.C.R. No. 65  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2015;  
1-3 May 7, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Administration; May 13, 2015, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 13, 2015, 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 State of Texas has traditionally designated a  
1-17 variety of official state symbols that embody the proud spirit and  
1-18 rich heritage of our state; and

1-19 WHEREAS, The bluebonnet, the Guadalupe bass, and the  
1-20 mockingbird serve to represent the great diversity of the flora and  
1-21 fauna of Texas, while the state dish, chili, aptly evokes our shared  
1-22 culinary culture; and

1-23 WHEREAS, In keeping with this custom, the designation of the  
1-24 western honey bee as the official state pollinator of Texas  
1-25 constitutes an appropriate recognition of the importance of this  
1-26 highly productive species found in the state; and

1-27 WHEREAS, Known to scientists as *Apis mellifera*, the western  
1-28 honey bee is the most widely domesticated of the several honey bee  
1-29 species that exist in the world and is a familiar sight in Texas,  
1-30 where its distinctive black-and-yellow abdomen and its zigzagging  
1-31 flight from flower to flower make the insect instantly  
1-32 recognizable; referred to simply as the honey bee, it is renowned  
1-33 for its ability to make its signature sweetener and, along with  
1-34 other members of its genus, is the only insect that produces a food  
1-35 eaten by humankind; and

1-36 WHEREAS, Even more significant than the production of honey,  
1-37 however, is the honey bee's essential role in the pollination of  
1-38 crops; this industrious insect enables the production of at least  
1-39 90 commercially grown crops in North America, including 75 percent  
1-40 of all fruits, nuts, and vegetables, contributing more than \$15  
1-41 billion to the nation's economy every year; pollination by the  
1-42 honey bee accounts for approximately 80 percent of all insect  
1-43 pollination, far exceeding that of butterflies, beetles, and wasps;  
1-44 and

1-45 WHEREAS, The honey bee is critical to the agriculture and  
1-46 commerce of this state, where the economic impact of the food and  
1-47 fiber sector totals more than \$100 billion annually; to take but one  
1-48 example, the bee helps Texas farmers to produce more cotton than  
1-49 farmers anywhere else in the country; cash receipts from Texas  
1-50 cotton in 2012 alone amounted to \$2.2 billion; and

1-51 WHEREAS, In recognition of this insect's importance, the City  
1-52 of Austin passed a resolution forbidding the destruction of feral  
1-53 bees within its city limits, instead allowing colonies to be  
1-54 sustainably relocated by Central Texas Bee Rescue; and

1-55 WHEREAS, A creature as beautiful and memorable as the Texas  
1-56 sky, the western honey bee works each day to preserve the balance of  
1-57 nature, allowing our crops to flourish, the agriculture of Texas to  
1-58 thrive, and our economy to grow, and its unique relationship to the  
1-59 welfare of this land makes it a truly fitting symbol for the  
1-60 majestic spirit of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

1-61 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas

2-1 hereby designate the western honey bee as the official state  
2-2 pollinator of Texas.

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