

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 1759

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 78th annual Rodeo Austin was held in the Capital
2 City on March 14 through 28, 2015; and

3 WHEREAS, Established in 1938, the rodeo started out as the
4 Austin Baby Beef Show; the first event was held on the grounds of
5 the old temporary Capitol and featured 16 calves; today, Rodeo
6 Austin is staged by a nonprofit organization at the spacious Travis
7 County Exposition Center, and the number of participants and array
8 of events have grown tremendously; spanning more than two weeks,
9 the program reflects the rodeo's mission of promoting youth
10 education and preserving the state's western heritage; and

11 WHEREAS, The original focus of Rodeo Austin, the stock show
12 remains a vital part of its extensive schedule; since the rodeo's
13 founding, more than 100,000 students in 4-H and FFA have competed in
14 livestock contests for blue ribbons and the title of grand
15 champion; moreover, the rodeo this year is slated to award over \$2.5
16 million to Texas youth in the form of prizes, livestock proceeds,
17 and scholarships; currently, 130 Rodeo Austin scholarship
18 recipients are attending 17 colleges and universities in the Lone
19 Star State; and

20 WHEREAS, With the motto "Where Weird Meets Western," the
21 rodeo offers myriad other attractions as well, among them a cowboy
22 breakfast, a barbecue cook-off, a gala, and a carnival, along with
23 live music and a ProRodeo; in 2015, Rodeo Austin hosted more than
24 130 live concerts, including an opening night performance by Willie

1 Nelson and encompassing genres ranging from Texas country to punk
2 rock; the rodeo also demonstrated its trailblazing spirit this
3 year, adopting a bracket-style format for its ProRodeo events;
4 renamed the Ride for the Brand Cowboy Tournament, the competition
5 is regarded as one of the top 10 ProRodeos in the country; and

6 WHEREAS, The scale of Rodeo Austin is reflected in the
7 significant contribution it makes to the local economy; drawing
8 over 300,000 visitors each year, this true Austin original has
9 spurred the creation of more than 900 jobs and produces a local
10 economic impact that exceeds \$77 million annually; and

11 WHEREAS, For nearly eight decades, Rodeo Austin has brought
12 Central Texans together in a family-friendly environment that is
13 both educational and entertaining, and it is a privilege to
14 recognize this classic Texas tradition; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the 78th annual Rodeo Austin and
17 extend to the event's organizers sincere best wishes for the
18 future; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Rodeo Austin as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.