

By: Bernal

H.R. No. 2215

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The H-E-B chain of grocery stores is celebrating the  
2 110th anniversary of its founding in 2015, and this is an  
3 appropriate occasion to take note of this signature Texan  
4 enterprise; and

5           WHEREAS, On November 26, 1905, Florence Butt invested \$60 and  
6 opened the C. C. Butt Grocery Store in Kerrville in order to  
7 support her three children and her husband, who was suffering from  
8 tuberculosis; in its first month, the store made \$50.60; and

9           WHEREAS, During the 1920s, Mrs. Butt's youngest son, Howard  
10 E. Butt, took over the company and established new locations in Del  
11 Rio and Laredo; by the 1940s, H-E-B had opened its first  
12 air-conditioned stores and begun to stock frozen foods and its own  
13 exclusive brands; three more stores were opened in San Antonio; and

14           WHEREAS, By the 1950s, H-E-B had created its first  
15 supermarkets, incorporating a fish market, butcher shop, bakery,  
16 and pharmacy in one building, and by the 1970s, the chain owned the  
17 largest milk plant and the largest bread bakery in Texas; and

18           WHEREAS, Expanding its reach even further, H-E-B launched an  
19 upscale grocery brand with the opening of Central Market in Austin  
20 in 1994, and in 2006, it opened Mi Tienda, a store designed for the  
21 Latino market in Houston; and

22           WHEREAS, Today, H-E-B is one of the largest grocery chains in  
23 the nation, and its more than 400 stores in Texas and northern  
24 Mexico employ over 71,000 employees; with annual sales of \$15

1 billion, the chain is the largest privately held company in Texas;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Since 2002, H-E-B has been sponsoring its annual  
4 Excellence in Education Awards, granting more than \$600,000 to  
5 outstanding educators each year; the store has received top ratings  
6 from *Consumer Reports*, and in 2010, *Progressive Grocer* magazine  
7 cited the chain as Retailer of the Year for its leadership in the  
8 industry and its achievements in community service; and

9 WHEREAS, From its humble beginnings in Kerrville more than a  
10 century ago, H-E-B has grown to become a retail institution relied  
11 upon by millions of Texans every day and an inspiring story of  
12 triumphant Lone Star entrepreneurship; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the 110th anniversary of H-E-B and  
15 extend to the company and its owners and employees sincere best  
16 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for H-E-B as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
19 House of Representatives.