By: Fraser, Perry S.C.R. No. 38

## 1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, For countless young readers, books open a window to 3 a realm of imagination and possibility, and in recent years, the 4 city of Abilene has undertaken a series of unique efforts to 5 showcase the wonders of children's literature; and

6 WHEREAS, Abilene is the home of the National Center for
7 Children's Illustrated Literature, the only museum in Texas that
8 exclusively collects artwork from best-selling, award-winning
9 children's book illustrators; established in 1996, the center has
10 curated and toured nearly 60 exhibits in close to 40 states, which
11 are enjoyed by one million people every year; and

WHEREAS, Further adding to the city's whimsical charm is its 12 extensive collection of outdoor sculptures based on characters from 13 children's classics; while walking the length of Everman Park, 14 15 visitors can encounter bronze statues in the likeness 16 Dr. Seuss's creations, and heroes from the works of author-illustrators William Joyce and David Shannon are brought to 17 life in locations throughout the city; young explorers can also 18 receive a "passport" to help them find Seymour, the character from 19 20 Walter Wick's Can You See What I See? books, who is hidden at several arts and cultural landmarks; and 21

Abilene Cultural Affairs Council as part of its Storybook Sculpture Project, thought to be the largest endeavor of its kind in any city;

WHEREAS, In total, 23 pieces have been commissioned by the

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- 1 each year, new additions to the project are dedicated at the
- 2 Children's Art & Literary Festival, a popular annual celebration
- 3 that includes family-friendly activities throughout downtown
- 4 Abilene; the festival is a collaborative effort of schools,
- 5 libraries, churches, civic groups, and city leaders, drawing crowds
- 6 of thousands from across the state and nation; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Literary works for children hold a cherished place
- 8 on the bookshelves of Texas families, and the true greats of the
- 9 genre weave captivating tales with dazzling artwork that is fondly
- 10 remembered for a lifetime; by embracing and promoting an essential
- 11 experience of childhood, residents of Abilene have established a
- 12 delightful tradition for young and old alike, and their efforts
- 13 have made the community a must-see destination for readers of all
- 14 ages; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 16 hereby designate the city of Abilene as the official Storybook
- 17 Capital of Texas; and, be it further
- 18 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
- 19 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
- 20 until the 10th anniversary of its designation; and, be it further
- 21 RESOLVED, That the children of our great state live happily
- 22 ever after.