

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.C.R. No. 49

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Train safety is a vital issue that affects all  
2 Texans, and promoting awareness of correct safety procedures around  
3 railroads can potentially save many lives; and

4           WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Insurance reports that a  
5 train hits someone in the United States every 115 minutes, often  
6 with fatal results, and the nonprofit Operation Lifesaver  
7 calculates that an average of nearly 1,200 Americans are killed or  
8 injured each year on highway-rail grade crossings; according to the  
9 Federal Railroad Administration, in 2015, Texas led the nation in  
10 highway-rail grade collisions with 224 such incidents and suffered  
11 42 pedestrian rail trespass injuries and 27 pedestrian rail  
12 trespass fatalities, the second most of any state; and

13           WHEREAS, An average train consisting of 100 cars can weigh 12  
14 million pounds and can take up to one mile to halt after first  
15 applying its brakes; because the average weight ratio of a train to  
16 a car is 4,000 to 1, collisions between the two usually result in  
17 tragedy for motor vehicle drivers, and a motorist is 20 times more  
18 likely to die in a train/vehicle collision than in a collision with  
19 another vehicle; and

20           WHEREAS, It is important to always use caution near railroad  
21 crossings, including slowing down, looking both ways, yielding to  
22 flashing lights and other signals, and keeping a safe distance from  
23 the railroad when stopped; train safety is equally important for  
24 pedestrians, and the only safe and legal place to cross railroad

1 tracks is at a designated pedestrian or roadway crossing; and

2 WHEREAS, It is imperative that motorists and pedestrians  
3 throughout the Lone Star State better understand the dangers that  
4 exist around railroads and the necessity of following proper train  
5 safety practices; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
7 hereby designate July as Train Safety Awareness Month; and, be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section  
10 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
11 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
12 passed by the legislature.