

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 8th annual World Seagrass Day in Aransas Pass is  
2 being held on April 7, 2017, to raise awareness of seagrasses and  
3 the vital role that they play in coastal ecosystems; and

4           WHEREAS, Seagrasses are submerged flowering plants found in  
5 bays, lagoons, and other areas with shallow marine water, including  
6 the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico; an important indicator  
7 species, the grasses provide food and habitat for marine  
8 invertebrates, and their ability to sustain fish populations makes  
9 them particularly important to Aransas Pass and other communities  
10 that rely on commercial and recreational fishing; in addition,  
11 seagrasses help to maintain water quality and clarity and stabilize  
12 the sea floor, which can lessen the impact of waves and potentially  
13 reduce storm damage; and

14           WHEREAS, The self-proclaimed "Seagrass Capital of the  
15 World," Aransas Pass partially overlaps with the Redfish Bay State  
16 Scientific Area; designated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife  
17 Department, this area features around 50 miles of prime fishing  
18 habitat and 14,000 acres of submerged seagrass beds; since 2006,  
19 TPWD has regulated public boating activities in the area to prevent  
20 damage to the grasses, and in 2013, the Texas Legislature followed  
21 suit by passing House Bill 3279, which requires safe boating  
22 practices around all seagrass habitats in Texas coastal waters; and

23           WHEREAS, Aransas Pass and Live Oak Peninsula are home to the  
24 Science & Spanish Club Network; this innovative program was started

1 by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation with the goal of developing youth  
2 leadership by teaching stewardship of the Gulf of Mexico and the  
3 greater Gulf Stream ecosystem; to date, two area campuses, Charlie  
4 Marshall Elementary in Aransas Pass and Blaschke-Sheldon  
5 Elementary in Ingleside, have been designated Seagrass Savvy  
6 Schools by the program, and more are expected to be announced during  
7 future World Seagrass Day events; and

8 WHEREAS, By encouraging Texans to be responsible caretakers  
9 of seagrasses, the celebration of World Seagrass Day is helping to  
10 promote the conservation and biodiversity of our state's precious  
11 coastal ecosystems for this and future generations, and all those  
12 taking part in this observance are to be commended for supporting  
13 this crucial cause; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 8th annual World Seagrass Day in  
16 Aransas Pass and extend to all those in attendance sincere best  
17 wishes for an enjoyable and informative gathering.

Morrison

H.R. No. 1024

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1024 was adopted by the House on March 30, 2017, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House