

1-1 By: Springer, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Fallon) H.C.R. No. 86
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2019;
1-3 May 10, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, Forever associated with Jim Bowie and the heroic
1-17 Battle of the Alamo, the Bowie knife has long been a vivid and
1-18 colorful symbol of the history and heritage of Texas; and

1-19 WHEREAS, It is thought that the first Bowie knife was made by
1-20 Rezin Bowie, Jim's brother, during the 1820s, when the two siblings
1-21 were in business together in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana; after Jim
1-22 was involved in a gunfight, Rezin gave him the large hunting knife
1-23 for personal protection, and in September 1827, in the chaotic
1-24 aftermath of a duel near Natchez, Louisiana, Jim used it to stab an
1-25 assailant who was trying to kill him; the story of the "Sandbar
1-26 Fight" ensured Jim's reputation as a deadly knife fighter, and all
1-27 across the South, men began to ask blacksmiths to make them a knife
1-28 like Jim Bowie's; and

1-29 WHEREAS, The weapon's fame grew when Jim Bowie took it with
1-30 him to Texas, and he and other defenders of the Alamo are thought to
1-31 have used the knives during the battle; the Bowie knife later became
1-32 popular with the Texas Rangers who served under the legendary Jack
1-33 Hays and Ben McCulloch, as well as with Confederate soldiers, who
1-34 were known to engrave "Sunny South" and other mottoes on the blades
1-35 of their knives; and

1-36 WHEREAS, During an era when guns often misfired, the Bowie
1-37 knife was a valuable back-up weapon, and schools were set up to
1-38 teach the technique of using the blade in a fight; knife makers
1-39 throughout the country met the increasing demand by creating
1-40 versions of the blade, and a journalist in Louisiana wrote that "all
1-41 the steel in the country, it seemed, was immediately converted into
1-42 Bowie knives"; they became internationally famous as well, and
1-43 cutlers in the English steel town of Sheffield began crafting
1-44 models that featured elaborately etched titles and slogans, such as
1-45 "Arkansas Toothpick," "Rio Grande Camp Knife," and "Americans Never
1-46 Surrender"; and

1-47 WHEREAS, The blade became less widely used as firearms became
1-48 more reliable, but it has continued to be popular with hunters and
1-49 collectors; designs have varied over the years, but today, the
1-50 Bowie knife typically features a steel blade that is at least an
1-51 inch and a half wide and eight inches long and between 3/16 and 1/4
1-52 inch thick, with a clip point that gives the weapon its distinctive
1-53 shape; the knife's handle often incorporates an S-shaped guard,
1-54 with the upper part angled forward so as to catch an opponent's
1-55 blade during a fight; and

1-56 WHEREAS, In 1958, one scholar wrote that "in the history of
1-57 American arms, three weapons stand out above all the rest: the
1-58 Kentucky rifle, the Colt's revolver, and the Bowie knife"; since
1-59 the days of the Alamo, the knife has served as an evocative reminder
1-60 of Texas' storied past, and it is inextricably linked with the
1-61 fierce and independent spirit of the Lone Star State; now,

2-1 therefore, be it

2-2 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-3 hereby designate the Bowie knife as the official state knife of
2-4 Texas.

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