

1-1 By: Fallon S.C.R. No. 20
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 22, 2019; March 1, 2019,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
 1-4 May 8, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 8, 2019, sent
 1-6 to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.C.R. No. 20 By: Fallon

1-17 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-18 WHEREAS, Forever associated with Jim Bowie and the heroic
 1-19 Battle of the Alamo, the Bowie knife has long been a vivid and
 1-20 colorful symbol of the history and heritage of Texas; and

1-21 WHEREAS, It is thought that the first Bowie knife was made by
 1-22 Rezin Bowie, Jim's brother, during the 1820s, when the two siblings
 1-23 were in business together in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana; after Jim
 1-24 was involved in a gunfight, Rezin gave him the large hunting knife
 1-25 for personal protection, and in September 1827, in the chaotic
 1-26 aftermath of a duel near Natchez, Mississippi, Jim used it to stab
 1-27 an assailant who was trying to kill him; the story of the "Sandbar
 1-28 Fight" ensured Jim's reputation as a deadly knife fighter, and all
 1-29 across the South, men began to ask blacksmiths to make them a knife
 1-30 like Jim Bowie's; and

1-31 WHEREAS, The weapon's fame grew when Jim Bowie took it with
 1-32 him to Texas, and he and other defenders of the Alamo are thought to
 1-33 have used the knives during the battle; the Bowie knife later became
 1-34 popular with the Texas Rangers who served under the legendary Jack
 1-35 Hays and Ben McCulloch, as well as with Confederate soldiers, who
 1-36 were known to engrave "Sunny South" and other mottoes on the blades
 1-37 of their knives; and

1-38 WHEREAS, During an era when guns often misfired, the Bowie
 1-39 knife was a valuable backup weapon, and schools were set up to teach
 1-40 the technique of using the blade in a fight; knife makers throughout
 1-41 the country met the increasing demand by creating versions of the
 1-42 blade, and a journalist in Louisiana wrote that "all the steel in
 1-43 the country, it seemed, was immediately converted into Bowie
 1-44 knives"; they became internationally famous as well, and cutlers in
 1-45 the English steel town of Sheffield began crafting models that
 1-46 featured elaborately etched titles and slogans, such as "Arkansas
 1-47 Toothpick," "Rio Grande Camp Knife," and "Americans Never
 1-48 Surrender"; and

1-49 WHEREAS, The blade became less widely used as firearms became
 1-50 more reliable, but it has continued to be popular with hunters and
 1-51 collectors; designs have varied over the years, but today, the
 1-52 Bowie knife typically features a steel blade that is at least an
 1-53 inch and a half wide and eight inches long and between 3/16 and 1/4
 1-54 inch thick, with a clip point that gives the weapon its distinctive
 1-55 shape; the knife's handle often incorporates an S-shaped guard,
 1-56 with the upper part angled forward so as to catch an opponent's
 1-57 blade during a fight; and

1-58 WHEREAS, In 1958, one scholar wrote that "in the history of
 1-59 American arms, three weapons stand out above all the rest: the
 1-60 Kentucky rifle, the Colt's revolver, and the Bowie knife"; since

2-1 the days of the Alamo, the knife has served as an evocative reminder
2-2 of Texas' storied past, and it is inextricably linked with the
2-3 fierce and independent spirit of the Lone Star State; now,
2-4 therefore, be it

2-5 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-6 hereby designate the Bowie knife as the official state knife of
2-7 Texas.

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