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By:  Rogers H.C.R. No. 11

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Bible has filled many roles in the saga of Texas, serving as a social and cultural touchstone that has been integral to the state's history and development; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1800s, as settlement of Texas gained momentum, the Bible provided a vital cultural link between Catholic Tejanos and Protestant Anglo Americans; although their backgrounds differed in many respects, shared traditions helped to unite them and to further their pursuit of greater freedom and, ultimately, independence from Spanish and later Mexican rule; and

WHEREAS, During the Texas Revolution, such heroic figures as Sam Houston, William Travis, Juan Seguin, and Davy Crockett carried their Bibles for wisdom and inspiration; a Bible believed to be Sam Houston's own has been used to swear in more than 30 Texas governors in an enduring inaugural tradition, and it serves as a powerful symbol of continuity and state leadership; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive recordkeeping was not carried out by local and state government during the 19th century; instead, life events such as births, marriages, and deaths were written in family Bibles; many of these cherished volumes were passed down through the generations and are now included in the state's archives, providing a vital resource for historians; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas grants official recognition to symbols that resonate broadly with the public and that have played an important part in shaping our state's identity; as a prominent element in the rich fabric of our Texas heritage, the Bible is truly deserving of such acknowledgment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas, 3rd Called Session, hereby designate the Bible as the official state book of Texas.