

By: Goodwin

H.R. No. 402

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The observance of Financial Literacy Month in April
2 2021 provides a fitting opportunity to call attention to the
3 essential role that personal financial literacy plays in everyday
4 life for all individuals; and

5 WHEREAS, In the past year, citizens in Texas and beyond have
6 faced a changing financial landscape; the COVID-19 pandemic has
7 further increased dependence on digital systems for everyday
8 transactions, altering the way we work, save, shop, and pay for
9 goods and services; even as online financial transactions have
10 become more common, many Texans are excluded from digital services
11 like ATMs, direct deposit of wages, and online payment
12 applications, such as PayPal and Square; as a result, these
13 individuals have been presented with new challenges in overseeing
14 their financial resources and obligations; and

15 WHEREAS, The development of effective money management
16 skills is rarely addressed in the classroom, and only 17 states
17 mandate that students take a personal finance course as a high
18 school graduation requirement; research has shown that students
19 from states with a required financial education course more often
20 display behaviors conducive to healthy money management; compared
21 to other young adults, they are more likely to save, pay off their
22 credit cards in full each month, and take modest financial risks,
23 and they are less likely to reach the maximum limit on their credit
24 cards, make late payments, or engage in compulsive buying; and

1 WHEREAS, Personal financial literacy continues to be an
2 important factor throughout adulthood; studies show that more than
3 40 percent of American adults cannot cover an unexpected expense of
4 \$250; in addition, the 2020 Consumer Financial Literacy Survey
5 reported that a majority of adults in the U.S. lived in credit card
6 debt during the yearlong study and that only 47 percent maintained a
7 budget; and

8 WHEREAS, Public, community, and private sector organizations
9 around the country are working to increase financial literacy rates
10 for Americans of all ages through media campaigns, websites, and
11 one-on-one counseling; as part of this outreach effort, a number of
12 agencies and groups have designated the month of April as Financial
13 Literacy Month to highlight the importance of personal finance
14 education and to encourage Americans to establish and maintain good
15 saving and spending habits; and

16 WHEREAS, Personal financial knowledge and awareness have
17 broad implications for the economic welfare of our state and
18 nation, and the observance of Financial Literacy Month is a timely
19 reminder of the right and responsibility of all Texans to build on
20 their understanding of money management; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize April 2021 as Financial Literacy
23 Month.