88S30923 CJM-D

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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Kimchee has long played a central role in Korean culture, and in recent decades, the beloved dish has gained increasing popularity around the globe, and especially in Texas; and

WHEREAS, In ancient times, the people of the Korean peninsula began fermenting vegetables to preserve them for consumption during long, harsh winters; the healthy, flavorful, and pungent product of this process, kimchee, became a staple of the Korean diet, served at every meal and incorporated in myriad recipes, from soup to pancakes; in the autumn, family members, friends, and neighbors came together to help in the labor-intensive preparation, providing an opportunity to socialize and build community; this ritual, *kimjang*, has been acknowledged since 2013 on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity; and

WHEREAS, Many ingredients can be used in kimchee, including scallions, ginger, garlic, sugar, salt, fish sauce, and fermented seafood; complex interactions among the elements during fermentation result in unique combinations of spicy, sour, sweet, carbonated, and umami flavors; although there are numerous kinds of kimchee, including regional and seasonal varieties, the most popular today is *baechu* kimchee, based on napa cabbage, salt, and *gochugaru*, a Korean red pepper powder; and

WHEREAS, During the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, kimchee was promoted as one of the official foods of the Olympic Village, sparking an increase in exports; in recent years, Texas has seen its Korean American population grow, leading to wider availability of kimchee, whether commercially produced, artisanal, or homemade; it appears not only in its traditional culinary context, but also on everything from tacos to French fries; and

WHEREAS, A mainstay of Korea's rich cuisine for centuries, kimchee is adding a distinctive zing to the vibrant diversity of the food scene across the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize November 22, 2023, as Kimchee Day and encourage all Texans to enjoy this savory treat.