By:  Rogers (Senate Sponsor - King) H.C.R. No. 4

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2023; May 2, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Administration; May 16, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 16, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Hall            X

Springer        X

Alvarado        X

Johnson         X

Menéndez        X

Middleton       X

Parker          X

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The city of Mineral Wells has long been associated with activities focused on health and well-being, and in recent years, it has become an increasingly popular destination for travelers seeking wellness experiences; and

WHEREAS, Mineral Wells first gained renown as a health resort during the late 1800s and early 1900s, when tourists were drawn by its mineral waters, which were believed to have special medicinal properties; by the 1920s, the town was home to more than 400 mineral wells and numerous therapeutic bathhouses, and bottled water and water crystals from the area were shipped throughout the nation; today, visitors can still enjoy mineral baths and spa treatments inspired by those that gave rise to the city's historic motto: "the South's Greatest Health Resort"; and

WHEREAS, While Mineral Wells draws inspiration from its rich past, it also caters to the needs of health-conscious travelers in the 21st century; the local wellness industry has enjoyed a resurgence in recent years as the city has worked toward securing designation as a Wellness Tourism Destination; in order to receive this coveted title, a community is required to meet a number of criteria outlined by the Wellness Tourism Association with an emphasis on health, safety, cleanliness, sustainability, and natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, Located in the hilly terrain of the Palo Pinto Mountains, the Mineral Wells area offers numerous locations to enjoy the outdoors, including the Brazos River, Possum Kingdom Lake, and the Clark Gardens Botanical Park; in addition, the city boasts a variety of recreational opportunities at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, the Texas Frontier Trails, and Mineral Wells Fossil Park, where visitors can enjoy such activities as hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, paddleboarding, and horseback riding; and

WHEREAS, A range of businesses have been established in Mineral Wells that are popular with wellness travelers, among them, yoga studios and markets featuring goods from local artisans and fresh produce from area farmers and growers; such enterprises reflect the growing importance of tourism to the city's economy; and

WHEREAS, Through its burgeoning wellness industry and its abundance of natural attractions, Mineral Wells is building on its heritage as one of the Lone Star State's premier destinations for wellness getaways and elevating its reputation as a haven for both recreation and relaxation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate Mineral Wells as the official Wellness Capital of Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.

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