

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.C.R. 22
By: Hughes
State Affairs
6/25/2025
Enrolled

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Throughout Texas' history, cannons have been key in its fight for independence and symbolize the state's determination. The Battle of Gonzales in 1835, the first conflict of the Texas Revolution, centered on a cannon when 150 Texian rebels refused to surrender it to Mexican forces, raising a flag with the famous phrase, "Come and Take It." At the Battle of San Jacinto, the Twin Sisters cannons played a key role in the defeat of Santa Anna's army.

In 1842, when Austin feared losing its capital status, an innkeeper named Angelina Eberly fired a cannon to alert the city and stop the removal of the archives. Today, vintage cannons can be found across Texas at courthouses and historical sites, including a cannon believed to be the "Come and Take It" gun in Gonzales and one used at the Alamo, now housed at the Shrine of Texas Liberty. The firing of cannons remains an important tradition, reminding Texans of their struggle for freedom and shared heritage. S.C.R. 22 designates the cannon as the state gun of Texas.

Designating the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.

Throughout the long and colorful history of Texas, the cannon has been an important weapon in the state's fight for liberty and independence as well as a symbol of the defiance and determination of its people. The very first conflict of the Texas Revolution, the Battle of Gonzales, was fought over a cannon; on October 2, 1835, the 150 Texian rebels at Gonzales refused to surrender their bronze six-pounder to Mexican dragoons; they pointed instead to the cannon and declared, "Come and Take It!" During the ensuing battle, this memorable catchphrase and a painted image of the cannon itself were raised on a makeshift flag that was created by the women of Gonzales; the legendary flag has since become one of the iconic images of the Lone Star State.

In 1836, the defenders of the Alamo boasted the largest artillery contingent west of the Mississippi, an assortment of 18 to 21 artillery pieces, and after the Mexican army captured the fort, the cannons were destroyed or abandoned nearby. When the Alamo was avenged six weeks later by the Texian victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, the famous Twin Sisters, two sixpounders that had been donated to the rebellion by the people of Cincinnati, Ohio, played a decisive role in the defeat of Santa Anna's army.

A cannon featured in a memorable incident in the early years of the Texas Republic. In 1842, Austin residents feared that President Sam Houston wanted to move the republic's capital from Austin to Houston, and when he sent Texas Rangers to take the government's archives, an Austin innkeeper named Angelina Eberly fired off a cannon on the corner of Sixth Street and Congress Avenue, rousing the city's population and blowing a hole in the General Land Office.

Today, vintage artillery pieces can be seen at county courthouses, military installations, and historical sites across Texas; two 24-pound howitzers made especially for the new republic by Major General Thomas Jefferson Chambers in the 1830s guard the south entrance of the Texas Capitol, while two 12-pound field guns and a wrought iron cannon are also situated on the Capitol grounds; a cannon reputed to be the "Come and Take It" gun is on exhibit at the Gonzales Memorial Museum, a cannon used by Colonel James Fannin at the Battle of Coleto Creek is displayed in a park in Goliad, and a bronze cannon believed to have been used at the

Alamo is on permanent loan to the Shrine of Texas Liberty by the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy.

The firing of a cannon continues to be an honored tradition at celebrations and commemorations across Texas; cannons help recreate Texas history, such as the fieldpiece fired for visitors by the "Living History" reenactors at the Fort Davis National Historical Site. These historic weapons serve as powerful reminders of our state's epic struggle for freedom, and they further highlight the unique heritage shared by all those who are proud to call Texas home.

RESOLVED

That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.