

1-1 By: Shofner (Senate Sponsor - Hughes) H.C.R. No. 83  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 19, 2025;  
1-3 May 21, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Administration; May 27, 2025, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 27, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, For decades, the residents of Rusk County have  
1-17 embraced the production of ribbon cane syrup as an indelible part of  
1-18 the community's culture and heritage; and

1-19 WHEREAS, Boasting a long growing season, fertile land, and  
1-20 ample rain, Rusk County provided early settlers with an ideal  
1-21 location for farming; one of the area's most popular cash crops was  
1-22 sugarcane, the primary ingredient in ribbon cane syrup, which is  
1-23 named for the distinct bands of color that run along the stalks of  
1-24 some varieties of the plant; just one acre of sugarcane farmland  
1-25 could produce enough of the crop to make 500 to 600 gallons of  
1-26 syrup; and

1-27 WHEREAS, The process of making ribbon cane syrup required the  
1-28 participation of numerous residents of the community; one person  
1-29 would hook mules to a sweep that operated the sugarcane crusher, and  
1-30 older children would feed sugarcane into rollers; a member of the  
1-31 team would maintain the fire to heat the extracted cane juice while  
1-32 another would skim the top of the syrup and move it through baffles  
1-33 with paddles to prevent burning; each task was overseen by a  
1-34 designated syrup master; and

1-35 WHEREAS, The traditional syrup-making process is  
1-36 demonstrated at Rusk County's annual Heritage Syrup Festival, which  
1-37 was first held in 1988; taking place on the grounds of the Depot  
1-38 Museum in Henderson, the popular event attracts some 31,000  
1-39 visitors to the county each year; attendees have the opportunity to  
1-40 observe the full production method, with the beloved mules who  
1-41 power the crusher playing a featured role; the museum also offers a  
1-42 training course to help ensure that the folk art of syrup making is  
1-43 passed along to future generations; and

1-44 WHEREAS, Rusk County's strong historical association with  
1-45 ribbon cane syrup has long been a source of great pride for area  
1-46 residents, and it is indeed deserving of special recognition; now,  
1-47 therefore, be it

1-48 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-49 hereby designate Rusk County as the official Syrup Capital of  
1-50 Texas; and, be it further

1-51 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
1-52 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
1-53 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
1-54 passed by the legislature.

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