

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, will mark the 250th anniversary of the
2 adoption of the American Declaration of Independence by the Second
3 Continental Congress, which was convened in Philadelphia in 1776;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1760s, Great Britain's taxation and
6 frontier policies became increasingly onerous to residents of its
7 13 North American colonies; their vigorous protests were met with
8 declaration of martial law in Massachusetts and the closing of the
9 port of Boston; delegates from colonial governments met in a
10 Continental Congress to organize a boycott of British goods; as
11 fighting broke out between colonists and British troops in
12 Massachusetts, the Continental Congress coordinated resistance
13 efforts; and

14 WHEREAS, The prospect of reconciliation with Britain grew
15 increasingly unlikely; on December 22, 1775, the British Parliament
16 prohibited trade with the colonies, and the Continental Congress
17 responded the following April by opening colonial ports; Thomas
18 Paine championed the cause of independence in a widely-distributed
19 pamphlet, *Common Sense*, and on June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee
20 introduced a motion in the Continental Congress to declare
21 independence; although not all members were ready to make this
22 break, the Continental Congress formed a committee to write such a
23 declaration, composed of five delegates: Thomas Jefferson, John
24 Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Benjamin Franklin; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Jefferson, a junior delegate from Virginia, was
2 assigned to write the initial draft; drawing on George Mason's
3 Virginia Declaration of Rights, as well as Mr. Jefferson's own
4 drafts of the Virginia Constitution and *Summary View of the Rights*
5 *of British Americans*, Mr. Jefferson produced a rough draft in a
6 matter of days; Mr. Adams and Mr. Franklin made revisions, followed
7 by the full committee, which then presented the final version to the
8 full Continental Congress on June 28; and

9 WHEREAS, After voting for independence on July 2, 1776, the
10 Continental Congress made 39 additional revisions to the committee
11 draft; on the morning of July 4, the Declaration of Independence was
12 adopted, a defining moment in the American Revolution; and

13 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence consists of 27
14 grievances against England's King George III in which the colonists
15 outline the complaints that "impel them to the separation" from the
16 "mother country"; among the most familiar and enduring protests has
17 been against the oft-repeated "taxation without representation"--a
18 refrain that continues in use today in various contexts; and

19 WHEREAS, Additionally, the Declaration of Independence
20 asserts "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" to which a people are
21 "entitle[d]," including the belief that "all men are created equal,
22 that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable
23 Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of
24 Happiness"; and

25 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence provided a firm and
26 enduring foundation for our liberty, and over the course of nearly
27 two and a half centuries, this pivotal document has been a source of

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1 inspiration to people the world over; now, therefore, be it
2 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby commemorate the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the
4 Declaration of Independence, which founded the United States of
5 America on July 4, 1776.

Lowe
Swanson

H.C.R. No. 123

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 123 was adopted by the House on April 9, 2025, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 123 was adopted by the Senate on April 15, 2025, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor