By: Darby H.C.R. No. 17

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has long been defined by its rich tapestry of cultural traditions, and among these, the Texas two-step stands as a preeminent expression of the state's unique heritage as well as Texans' enduring connection to music and community; and

WHEREAS, Distinct from stationary or performance-oriented dances, the Texas two-step is a traveling social partner dance characterized by its "quick-quick, slow-slow" rhythm, with participants moving continuously around a shared floor; the origins of this dance are as diverse as the state, blending European influences such as the polka, which was introduced by German and Czech settlers, with the foxtrot and other American dances; the Texas two-step drew on these influences but developed into a simpler, more practical style that was tailored to crowded dance halls rather than formal ballroom settings; and

WHEREAS, The evolution of the two-step is inextricably linked to the rise of Western swing, a musical genre pioneered by such figures as Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys beginning in the 1930s; featured at legendary venues such as the Crystal Springs Dance Pavilion in Fort Worth, the music of Wills and other Western swing performers was explicitly composed to be danced to, rather than merely heard; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950s, Ray Price, another native Texan, further defined this tradition with his 4/4 shuffle rhythm, which

emphasized a beat favored by dancers; that dance-driven style lives on in the work of a multitude of present-day country artists whose music continues to pack dance floors throughout the Lone Star State and far beyond; and

WHEREAS, The two-step is accessible to participants of all backgrounds and is ubiquitous in thousands of Texas dance halls and community venues; the dance fosters a sense of unity through its structured yet flexible form and provides dancers with a way of moving together fluidly in settings both large and small; and

WHEREAS, While Texas currently recognizes the square dance as its official folk dance, the Texas two-step uniquely represents our state's multicultural identity and remains a vibrant part of life in the Lone Star State; from the expansive floors of historic dance halls to the intimate settings of neighborhood honky-tonks, the Texas two-step has proven to be a remarkably adaptable working tradition that is very much alive and evolving today; and

WHEREAS, The Texas two-step has brought Texans together for generations, and this aptly named dance deserves to be recognized as a cornerstone of the state's cultural legacy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 90th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate the Texas two-step as the official State Dance of Texas.