

By: Bonnen

H.C.R. No. 18

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas traditionally has recognized a  
2 variety of official symbols as tangible representations of the  
3 proud character and colorful heritage of the Lone Star State; and

4           WHEREAS, Select members of the animal kingdom, including the  
5 longhorn, the armadillo, and the Guadalupe bass, are among the  
6 species that have been officially recognized, and their designation  
7 has served to draw attention to the great biological diversity of  
8 the Texas landscape and to highlight creatures who are unique to or  
9 closely identified with the state; and

10           WHEREAS, The large variety of natural habitats in Texas as  
11 well as the state's central location on the North American  
12 continent have given it a rich array of amphibians; of the many  
13 members of that class that share our lands and waters, one species  
14 comes immediately to the forefront as an especially worthy symbol  
15 of the state: the Texas toad; and

16           WHEREAS, Aptly named, the Texas toad lives primarily in the  
17 Lone Star State, though it is also found in the neighboring areas of  
18 New Mexico, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico; known by the scientific  
19 name *Bufo speciosus*, it is one of the most abundant toad species in  
20 Texas and resides in nearly all regions of the state with the  
21 exception of the far eastern counties and parts of the western  
22 Panhandle; and

23           WHEREAS, Ranging in color from gray to brown with dark  
24 irregular markings, the Texas toad can grow to more than three

1 inches in length and is easily identified by the black tubercles on  
2 its hind feet and by the absence of the back stripe that is seen on  
3 many other toads; and

4 WHEREAS, These adaptable amphibians demonstrate the hardy  
5 determination that Texans are known for; in order to survive in a  
6 place where the sun is fierce and water can be scarce, they are  
7 adept at taking refuge beneath rocks and in below-ground havens;  
8 while most well suited to live in areas of sandy soil, they also  
9 thrive in other locales and are found in environments that range  
10 from desert to grasslands to wooded areas; and

11 WHEREAS, Relishing nothing more than a cooling shower, Texas  
12 toads emerge in huge numbers following a summer rain and head for  
13 the nearest pool of water in hopes of finding a mate; the toads have  
14 a distinctive sound, with males emitting a call of explosive trills  
15 to charm their lady friends; and

16 WHEREAS, Possessing a Buddha-like visage, this notable  
17 creature is a common sight across much of Texas, and its indomitable  
18 spirit and unique relationship with the state for which it was named  
19 make it a most appropriate symbol of the Lone Star State; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
22 hereby designate the Texas toad as the official State Amphibian of  
23 Texas.