

1-1 By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.C.R. No. 77  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2015;  
 1-3 May 7, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Administration; May 21, 2015, reported favorably by the following  
 1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 21, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Hancock	X			
1-8 Uresti	X			
1-9 Campbell	X			
1-10 Eltife	X			
1-11 Huffines	X			
1-12 Schwertner			X	
1-13 West	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The vaquero is one of the iconic figures of the Lone  
 1-17 Star State, and today the heritage of the vaqueros remains  
 1-18 especially strong in Jim Hogg County, where they have played a  
 1-19 fundamental role in that region's economy and culture since the  
 1-20 arrival of the earliest settlers; and

1-21 WHEREAS, Renowned for their horsemanship and stock-handling  
 1-22 abilities, vaqueros were crucial to the advance of Spanish ranching  
 1-23 into South Texas; from the mid-18th century onward, their skills  
 1-24 and fortitude figured greatly in the development of large,  
 1-25 open-range cattle ranches in the region south of the Nueces River;  
 1-26 and

1-27 WHEREAS, These ranches left an imprint on the landscape that  
 1-28 is visible today in fortified stone blockhouses and in ranch  
 1-29 outbuildings, in chapels and cemeteries, in hand-dug wells, and in  
 1-30 man-made reservoirs that made it possible to assemble enormous  
 1-31 herds of livestock for drives north; and

1-32 WHEREAS, With the expansion of the Texas cattle industry in  
 1-33 the 19th century, the vaquero's traditions came to shape ranching  
 1-34 practices far beyond the Nueces; over the years, much of the  
 1-35 vaquero's equipment--his chaps, bandana, sombrero, lasso, spurs,  
 1-36 and saddle--became the standard gear of all Texas cowboys, while  
 1-37 elements of his craft, such as mounted herding and roping  
 1-38 techniques, also influenced early Anglo-American methods; the  
 1-39 system of range management and working cattle that evolved in  
 1-40 Texas, a system infused with vaquero lore, subsequently spread  
 1-41 across the High Plains and western part of the United States; and

1-42 WHEREAS, Endowed with soils better suited to livestock  
 1-43 production than farming, the area of present-day Jim Hogg County  
 1-44 has beckoned ranchers for the past two centuries; the first known  
 1-45 grant within the borders of today's county was made to Xavier Vela  
 1-46 in 1805 and encompassed nearly 18,000 acres; altogether, between  
 1-47 1805 and 1836, approximately 25 grants were conferred within the  
 1-48 county; and

1-49 WHEREAS, Among the first ranches founded in the area were  
 1-50 Randado, Las Noriacitas, Las Animas, San Antonio Viejo, Las  
 1-51 Enramadas, Las Viboritas, El Baluarte, and San Javier, while  
 1-52 important spreads in the latter 1800s included Randado, Las  
 1-53 Noriacitas, San Javier, and El Sordo; and

1-54 WHEREAS, Some of the earliest ranches to be established in  
 1-55 Jim Hogg County are still held by descendants of the original  
 1-56 owners; the most famous of these venerable ranches, Randado, was  
 1-57 originally occupied in 1830 by Hipolito Garcia and is now one of the  
 1-58 oldest continuously operated ranches in the nation; and

1-59 WHEREAS, Formerly embracing more than 100,000 acres, Randado  
 1-60 was famed both for its vast herd of Spanish ponies, which by the  
 1-61 1870s numbered some 3,000 head, and for the fine leather and

2-1 horsehair accoutrements fashioned by its vaqueros; the name of the  
2-2 ranch, in fact, refers to the production there of an elaborate style  
2-3 of lasso, the *randa*; Robert E. Lee, who spent time in Texas before  
2-4 the Civil War, wrote about his visit to Randado, and the ranch  
2-5 figured in literary works by John Houghton Allen, Tom Lea, and J.  
2-6 Frank Dobie; and

2-7 WHEREAS, Ranching remains one of the chief pillars of the  
2-8 economy in Jim Hogg County, and most communities in the area have  
2-9 ranching roots or associations; Agua Nueva, Cuevitas, Guerra, and  
2-10 Randado all originated as ranching settlements; and

2-11 WHEREAS, Hebbronville, the county seat, is located on land  
2-12 that once formed part of Las Noriacitas; the town's namesake, W. R.  
2-13 Hebbron, acquired the site from descendants of the original grantee  
2-14 about 1880, and in 1883 he established Hebbronville along the route  
2-15 of the Texas Mexican Railway; and

2-16 WHEREAS, For a time, Hebbronville ranked as the largest  
2-17 cattle shipping center in the country, and to this day it is a hub of  
2-18 ranching activity; when award-winning director/producer Hector  
2-19 Galan made a documentary about the vaquero in the mid-1980s, he shot  
2-20 most of the film in Hebbronville, and the city hosts an annual  
2-21 Vaquero Festival every year, on the first weekend in November; and

2-22 WHEREAS, Through a deep appreciation of the land and through  
2-23 expertise honed over centuries, the vaquero has contributed  
2-24 immeasurably to the settlement of South Texas and to the rich  
2-25 ranching heritage of the Lone Star State, and it is fitting that the  
2-26 county where he has played such a far-reaching role continue to be  
2-27 appropriately recognized; now, therefore, be it

2-28 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2-29 hereby redesignate Jim Hogg County as the official Vaquero Capital  
2-30 of Texas; and, be it further

2-31 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
2-32 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
2-33 until the 10th anniversary of its designation.

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