

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 379

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Mexican fruit fly is an invasive pest capable of
2 devastating crops throughout many parts of the Western Hemisphere,
3 and it is a particularly serious threat to Texas agriculture; and

4 WHEREAS, Native to central Mexico, Mexican fruit flies were
5 first detected in Texas in 1927; they are long-lived, highly
6 fertile, and highly mobile, and they can damage over 50 species of
7 fruits; although Mexican fruit flies have appeared repeatedly over
8 the years, eradication programs have thus far prevented them from
9 becoming an established pest in the continental United States; and

10 WHEREAS, A new Mexican fruit fly outbreak was confirmed in
11 the Lower Rio Grande Valley in February 2016, and as a result, parts
12 of Webb and Zapata Counties and many cities in the region were
13 placed under quarantine for the insect; while the quarantine is in
14 effect, residents in the affected area should refrain from
15 transporting fruit outside the quarantine sector in order to avoid
16 spreading the pest; fruit grown in the yard should not be given to
17 friends or neighbors but rather picked and stored inside the house;
18 unwanted or fallen fruit should be double bagged for disposal; and

19 WHEREAS, The citrus industry is a crucial component of the
20 South Texas economy, and citizens have an important role to play in
21 stopping the spread of a pest that threatens the vitality of
22 agribusiness in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond; now, therefore,
23 be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby recognize January as Mexican Fruit Fly Awareness
2 Month and encourage all Texans to learn more about ways to stop the
3 proliferation of the Mexican fruit fly.