

1-1 By: Huffines, Kolthorst S.C.R. No. 8
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 11, 2017; February 1, 2017,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
1-4 April 10, 2017, reported favorably, as amended, by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 10, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>PNV</u>
1-7				
1-8	<u>Kolthorst</u>	<u>X</u>		
1-9	<u>Burton</u>	<u>X</u>		
1-10	<u>Huffines</u>	<u>X</u>		
1-11	<u>Hughes</u>	<u>X</u>		
1-12	<u>Nichols</u>	<u>X</u>		
1-13	<u>West</u>	<u>X</u>		
1-14	<u>Zaffirini</u>	<u>X</u>		

1-15 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1 By: Nichols

1-16 Amend S.C.R. No. 8 as filed by Senator Huffines on page 2,
1-17 lines 8-14, by striking the following:
1-18 "since 1954, Smokey the Cannon has been discharged at every
1-19 University of Texas home football game in Austin--at the kickoff
1-20 and the end of each quarter, after the crowd sings "The Eyes of
1-21 Texas," and each time the team scores; during the off-season, the
1-22 cannon and its crew tour the country, representing the Longhorns at
1-23 charity and volunteer events; other"

1-24 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-25 WHEREAS, Throughout the long and colorful history of Texas,
1-26 the cannon has been an important weapon in the state's fight for
1-27 liberty and independence as well as a symbol of the defiance and
1-28 determination of its people; and

1-29 WHEREAS, The very first conflict of the Texas Revolution, the
1-30 Battle of Gonzales, was fought over a cannon; on October 2, 1835,
1-31 the 150 Texian rebels at Gonzales refused to surrender their bronze
1-32 six-pounder to Mexican dragoons; they pointed instead to the cannon
1-33 and declared, "Come and take it!"; during the ensuing battle, this
1-34 memorable catchphrase and a painted image of the cannon itself were
1-35 raised on a makeshift flag that was created by the women of
1-36 Gonzales; the legendary flag has since become one of the iconic
1-37 images of the Lone Star State; and

1-38 WHEREAS, In 1836, the defenders of the Alamo boasted the
1-39 largest artillery contingent west of the Mississippi, an assortment
1-40 of 18 to 21 artillery pieces, and after the Mexican army captured
1-41 the fort, the cannons were destroyed or abandoned nearby; when the
1-42 Alamo was avenged six weeks later by the Texian victory at the
1-43 Battle of San Jacinto, the famous Twin Sisters, two six-pounders
1-44 that had been donated to the rebellion by the people of Cincinnati,
1-45 Ohio, played a decisive role in the defeat of Santa Anna's army; and

1-46 WHEREAS, A cannon featured in a memorable incident in the
1-47 early years of the Texas Republic; in 1842, Austin residents feared
1-48 that President Sam Houston wanted to move the republic's capital
1-49 from Austin to Houston, and when he sent Texas Rangers to take the
1-50 government's archives, an Austin innkeeper named Angelina Eberly
1-51 fired off a cannon on the corner of Sixth Street and Congress
1-52 Avenue, rousing the city's population and blowing a hole in the
1-53 General Land Office; and

1-54 WHEREAS, Today, vintage artillery pieces can be seen at
1-55 county courthouses, military installations, and historical sites
1-56 across Texas; two 24-pound howitzers made especially for the new
1-57 republic by Major General Thomas Jefferson Chambers in the 1830s
1-58 guard the south entrance of the Texas Capitol, while two 12-pound
1-59 field guns and a wrought iron cannon are also situated on the

2-1 Capitol grounds; a cannon reputed to be the "Come and Take It" gun
2-2 is on exhibit at the Gonzales Memorial Museum, a cannon used by
2-3 Colonel James Fannin at the Battle of Coleto Creek is displayed in a
2-4 park in Goliad, and a bronze cannon believed to have been used at
2-5 the Alamo is on permanent loan to the Shrine of Texas Liberty by the
2-6 San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy; and

2-7 WHEREAS, The firing of a cannon continues to be an honored
2-8 tradition at celebrations and commemorations across Texas; since
2-9 1954, Smokey the Cannon has been discharged at every University of
2-10 Texas home football game in Austin--at the kickoff and the end of
2-11 each quarter, after the crowd sings "The Eyes of Texas," and each
2-12 time the team scores; during the off-season, the cannon and its crew
2-13 tour the country, representing the Longhorns at charity and
2-14 volunteer events; other cannons help recreate Texas history, such
2-15 as the fieldpiece fired for visitors by the "Living History"
2-16 reenactors at the Fort Davis National Historical Site; and

2-17 WHEREAS, These historic weapons serve as powerful reminders
2-18 of our state's epic struggle for freedom, and they further
2-19 highlight the unique heritage shared by all those who are proud to
2-20 call Texas home; now, therefore, be it

2-21 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-22 hereby designate the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.

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