

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.C.R. No. 63  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed May 14, 2019; May 15, 2019, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Administration;  
1-4 May 21, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,  
1-5 Nays 0; May 21, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, For thousands of years, the mermaid has been one of  
1-17 the most striking symbols of humanity's connection with the natural  
1-18 world, and over the past century, this legendary figure has come to  
1-19 represent the city of San Marcos and its special relationship to the  
1-20 water resources of Central Texas; and

1-21 WHEREAS, The story of the mermaid in San Marcos begins with  
1-22 the abundant springs that every day release 100 million gallons of  
1-23 freshwater from the Edwards Aquifer into the San Marcos River;  
1-24 considered a sacred place by Native Americans, and regarded as the  
1-25 creation site of the Coahuilteicans, the springs have drawn people  
1-26 to their banks for more than 11,500 years, making this area what is  
1-27 thought to be one of the oldest continually inhabited sites in North  
1-28 America; and

1-29 WHEREAS, In 1845, Edward Burleson, a former vice president of  
1-30 the Republic of Texas, dammed the headwaters of the San Marcos  
1-31 River, thereby creating Spring Lake; over the ensuing years, the  
1-32 water from the lake powered gristmills, sawmills, an ice factory,  
1-33 and an electric light works; the San Marcos River also constituted  
1-34 an important water stop along the Chisholm Trail; and

1-35 WHEREAS, A. B. Rogers bought Edward Burleson's homestead in  
1-36 the 1920s and built a resort hotel on the shore of the lake; he later  
1-37 began offering rides in glass-bottomed boats that allowed visitors  
1-38 to see through the crystal water to the bubbling springs beneath;  
1-39 his son Paul, who succeeded him, established the Aquarena Springs  
1-40 amusement park on the property and in 1950 built an underwater  
1-41 theater, where young women known as "aquamaids" staged exhibitions  
1-42 of synchronized swimming and underwater ballet; at the peak of its  
1-43 popularity, the park drew up to 350,000 visitors every year and was  
1-44 featured in *Life* magazine, and the submerged theater was featured  
1-45 on the cover of *Popular Mechanics*; in time, the show came to include  
1-46 Glurpo, a pipe-smoking clown, and a swimming pig named Ralph; and

1-47 WHEREAS, The performances continued until the 1990s, when  
1-48 Texas State University acquired the park and set a new course for  
1-49 the property; today, the site hosts the Meadows Center for Water and  
1-50 the Environment, which conducts research and educational programs  
1-51 focused on promoting sustainable water management and  
1-52 environmental stewardship; the critical nature of the center's work  
1-53 is underscored by the fact that the Edwards Aquifer supplies  
1-54 drinking water to several million people and serves as the  
1-55 principal source of water for agriculture and industry throughout  
1-56 the region, while waters discharged by the aquifer also support  
1-57 recreation and tourism; in addition, the aquifer system sustains  
1-58 over 40 highly adapted species and a number that are either  
1-59 threatened or endangered, including five found in the San Marcos  
1-60 Springs and a stretch of river just below the springs; and

1-61 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Mermaid Society of San Marcos was

2-1 created to foster harmony among the varied interests of  
2-2 environmentalism, the arts, and economic growth; the society has  
2-3 established an annual Mermaid Week, which includes a parade, the  
2-4 Mermaid Society Ball, and the Mermaid SPLASH Festival; and

2-5 WHEREAS, Through its arts program and with revenue from its  
2-6 hotel occupancy tax, the City of San Marcos has funded a number of  
2-7 mermaid-themed works of public art, including a mural and a series  
2-8 of seven-foot-tall statues decorated by various artists; and

2-9 WHEREAS, By adopting the mermaid as a symbol of the city, the  
2-10 people of San Marcos are encouraging public interest in the natural  
2-11 environment and highlighting the central role that their community  
2-12 is playing in preserving the water resources of the Lone Star State;  
2-13 now, therefore, be it

2-14 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2-15 hereby designate San Marcos as the Mermaid Capital of Texas; and, be  
2-16 it further

2-17 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
2-18 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
2-19 until the 10th anniversary of its designation.

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