

1-1 By: Springer S.C.R. No. 7
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 29, 2021; March 11, 2021,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
 1-4 April 13, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 13, 2021, 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, Forever associated with Jim Bowie and the heroic
 1-17 Battle of the Alamo, the Bowie knife has long been a vivid and
 1-18 colorful symbol of the history and heritage of Texas; and

1-19 WHEREAS, It is thought that the first Bowie knife was made by
 1-20 Rezin Bowie, Jim's brother, during the 1820s, when the two siblings
 1-21 were in business together in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana; after Jim
 1-22 was involved in a gunfight, Rezin gave him the large hunting knife
 1-23 for personal protection, and in September 1827, in the chaotic
 1-24 aftermath of a duel near Natchez, Mississippi, Jim used it to stab
 1-25 an assailant who was trying to kill him; the story of the "Sandbar
 1-26 Fight" ensured Jim's reputation as a deadly knife fighter, and all
 1-27 across the South, men began to ask blacksmiths to make them a knife
 1-28 like Jim Bowie's; and

1-29 WHEREAS, The weapon's fame grew when Jim Bowie took it with
 1-30 him to Texas, and he and other defenders of the Alamo are thought to
 1-31 have used the knives during the battle; the Bowie knife later became
 1-32 popular with the Texas Rangers who served under the legendary Jack
 1-33 Hays and Ben McCulloch, as well as with Confederate soldiers, who
 1-34 were known to engrave "Sunny South" and other mottoes on the blades
 1-35 of their knives; and

1-36 WHEREAS, During an era when guns often misfired, the Bowie
 1-37 knife was a valuable back-up weapon, and schools were set up to
 1-38 teach the technique of using the blade in a fight; knife makers
 1-39 throughout the country met the increasing demand by creating
 1-40 versions of the blade, and a journalist in Louisiana wrote that "all
 1-41 the steel in the country, it seemed, was immediately converted into
 1-42 Bowie knives"; they became internationally famous as well, and
 1-43 cutlers in the English steel town of Sheffield began crafting
 1-44 models that featured elaborately etched titles and slogans, such as
 1-45 "Arkansas Toothpick," "Rio Grande Camp Knife," and "Americans Never
 1-46 Surrender"; and

1-47 WHEREAS, The blade became less widely used as firearms became
 1-48 more reliable, but it has continued to be popular with hunters and
 1-49 collectors; designs have varied over the years, but today, the
 1-50 Bowie knife typically features a steel blade that is at least an
 1-51 inch and a half wide and eight inches long and between 3/16 and 1/4
 1-52 inch thick, with a clip point that gives the weapon its distinctive
 1-53 shape; the knife's handle often incorporates an S-shaped guard,
 1-54 with the upper part angled forward so as to catch an opponent's
 1-55 blade during a fight; and

1-56 WHEREAS, In 1958, one scholar wrote that "in the history of
 1-57 American arms, three weapons stand out above all the rest: the
 1-58 Kentucky rifle, the Colt's revolver, and the Bowie knife"; since
 1-59 the days of the Alamo, the knife has served as an evocative reminder
 1-60 of Texas' storied past, and it is inextricably linked with the
 1-61 fierce and independent spirit of the Lone Star State; now,

2-1 therefore, be it
2-2 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-3 hereby designate the Bowie knife as the official state knife of
2-4 Texas.

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