

1-1 By: Springer S.C.R. No. 26
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2021; March 18, 2021, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
1-4 April 13, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-5 Nays 0; April 13, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	<u>Schwertner</u>	X		
1-9	<u>Johnson</u>	X		
1-10	<u>Alvarado</u>	X		
1-11	<u>Buckingham</u>		X	
1-12	<u>Huffman</u>	X		
1-13	<u>Menéndez</u>	X		
1-14	<u>Springer</u>	X		

1-15 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is blessed with abundant
1-17 wildlife and natural resources, and for more than 125 years, Texas
1-18 game wardens have played a vital role in preserving and protecting
1-19 this rich legacy for all Texans; and

1-20 WHEREAS, The profession of Texas game warden has its roots in
1-21 the office of the Fish and Oyster Commissioner, which was created in
1-22 1895 by the 24th Texas Legislature; the first commissioner was I. P.
1-23 Kibbe, and he appointed several deputies, including William Henry
1-24 Sterling, one of the first conservation law enforcement officers in
1-25 the state; staff salaries--\$150 a month for the commissioner and up
1-26 to \$50 a month for the deputies--were funded by the sale of licenses
1-27 and permits; in 1899, the commission was given jurisdiction over
1-28 all public waters, including freshwater streams, lakes, and ponds,
1-29 and four years later the agency's duties were expanded to include
1-30 commercial shrimping; and

1-31 WHEREAS, Over the years, the name of the agency has changed
1-32 several times; it was designated the office of the Game, Fish, and
1-33 Oyster Commissioner in 1907, the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission
1-34 in 1929, and the Game and Fish Commission in 1951; since 1963, the
1-35 agency has been known as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,
1-36 and in 1965, the professionals now known as Texas game wardens were
1-37 further tasked with enforcing recreational safety on all waters of
1-38 the state; in 1971, the 62nd Texas Legislature formally recognized
1-39 TPWD game wardens as peace officers, granting them full authority
1-40 to preserve the peace within Texas; and

1-41 WHEREAS, The ranks of game wardens in Texas have grown over
1-42 the years, from six officers in 1919 to more than 550 today; active
1-43 and retired game wardens joined together in 1979 to found the Texas
1-44 Game Warden Association and again in 2000 to establish the Game
1-45 Warden Peace Officers Association, with both organizations working
1-46 to further the vitality and the heritage of the profession; and

1-47 WHEREAS, The dedicated men and women who serve as game
1-48 wardens in the Lone Star State work tirelessly to safeguard the rich
1-49 bounty of our natural resources and to maintain them for the use and
1-50 enjoyment of present and future generations, and their exemplary
1-51 service is deeply appreciated by their fellow Texans; now,
1-52 therefore, be it

1-53 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-54 hereby designate the third Tuesday in February as Texas Game Warden
1-55 Day; and, be it further

1-56 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
1-57 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
1-58 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
1-59 passed by the legislature.

1-60 * * * * *