

1-1 By: Leo-Wilson (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.C.R. No. 42
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;
1-3 May 4, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 16, 2023, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 16, 2023, 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 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, For over half a century, Winnie has been known far
1-17 and wide as the host of the Texas Rice Festival, a celebration of
1-18 the local rice harvest and the integral role that the rice industry
1-19 has played in the area's history, development, and culture; and

1-20 WHEREAS, First cultivated locally around 1900, rice has long
1-21 been essential to the regional economy; the Texas Rice Festival
1-22 originated in 1968 as a special event held by St. Louis Catholic
1-23 Church of Winnie to commemorate the conclusion of the growing
1-24 season; its popularity stirred further interest among area farmers,
1-25 and they banded together to establish the Texas Rice Festival and
1-26 obtain a charter for the celebration in October 1969; Winnie was
1-27 selected to be the host town before the inaugural Rice Festival was
1-28 held on October 3, 1970, and the event has continued to be organized
1-29 each year around the first weekend of October; and

1-30 WHEREAS, Five years after the first Rice Festival took place,
1-31 the board of directors recognized the need for more space to
1-32 accommodate the growth of the event, and the decision was made to
1-33 relocate it from downtown Winnie to Winnie-Stowell Park on LeBlanc
1-34 Road; initially a one-day affair, it has since expanded to multiple
1-35 days of activities, including parades, musical performances, car
1-36 and livestock shows, photography and art exhibits, and a barbecue
1-37 cook-off; the festival also features a slate of pageants, where
1-38 youth of all ages compete for such titles as Senior Queen, Miss
1-39 LaPetite, and Little Rice King; moreover, awards are presented to
1-40 honor the Farmer of the Year and other deserving members of the
1-41 community; and

1-42 WHEREAS, The enduring popularity of the Texas Rice Festival
1-43 is a testament to the pride that local residents take in the rich
1-44 agricultural heritage of the Winnie area, and the town's connection
1-45 to the festival and to the tasty and versatile grain that inspired
1-46 it is indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be
1-47 it

1-48 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-49 hereby designate Winnie as the official Rice Capital of Texas; and,
1-50 be it further

1-51 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
1-52 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
1-53 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
1-54 passed by the legislature.

1-55 * * * * *