

1-1 By: Leo Wilson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Middleton) H.C.R. No. 50
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2025;
1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 7, 2025, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 7, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
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, The celebration of Mardi Gras has a rich and
1-17 colorful history in Galveston, where it has become one of the city's
1-18 most anticipated annual events; and

1-19 WHEREAS, The first documented Mardi Gras festivities took
1-20 place in Galveston in 1867; revelers observed the holiday with
1-21 events that included a masquerade ball and a performance of William
1-22 Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, and over the ensuing decades, parades and
1-23 other larger gatherings began to be introduced; by the 1870s, Mardi
1-24 Gras in Galveston had evolved into a grander and more organized
1-25 affair, with krewes such as the Knights of Momus and the Knights of
1-26 Myth overseeing the planning of parades and balls; and

1-27 WHEREAS, During the early decades of the 1900s, various local
1-28 groups assumed responsibility for coordinating Mardi Gras events,
1-29 including the Galveston Booster Club, which merged with the
1-30 Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce in 1937, beginning the
1-31 chamber's oversight of the celebration; after festivities went
1-32 dormant with the onset of World War II, private Mardi Gras
1-33 gatherings were held by churches, social clubs, and local families,
1-34 and that practice continued for more than four decades; in 1985,
1-35 businessman and developer George P. Mitchell and his wife, Cynthia
1-36 Woods Mitchell, led the effort to restore the tradition to its
1-37 former glory and reinstate Mardi Gras as a citywide extravaganza;
1-38 and

1-39 WHEREAS, Today, Galveston boasts one of the largest Mardi
1-40 Gras festivals in the country; the celebration spans the two weeks
1-41 preceding Lent and ends on Fat Tuesday; activities are concentrated
1-42 in Galveston's historic downtown area, along the beachfront, and on
1-43 Seawall Boulevard; the observance continues to encompass parades,
1-44 balcony parties, balls, and other timeless attractions, creating an
1-45 atmosphere of joy and revelry for those of all ages; and

1-46 WHEREAS, For more than 150 years, Galveston has nurtured a
1-47 rich Mardi Gras culture that is distinctly Texan in spirit, and the
1-48 enduring popularity of the event attests to the pride and
1-49 enthusiasm shared by area residents for an institution that is such
1-50 a vital part of the community's heritage; now, therefore, be it

1-51 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-52 hereby designate Galveston as the official Mardi Gras Capital of
1-53 Texas; and, be it further

1-54 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
1-55 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
1-56 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
1-57 passed by the legislature.

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