

1-1 By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.C.R. No. 70  
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

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Hall	X		
1-9	Hinojosa of Nueces	X		
1-10	Cook	X		
1-11	Eckhardt	X		
1-12	Kolkhorst	X		
1-13	Menéndez	X		
1-14	Middleton	X		

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The vaquero is one of the iconic figures of the Lone  
1-17 Star State, and today that heritage remains especially strong in  
1-18 Jim Hogg County, where vaqueros have played a fundamental role in  
1-19 that region's economy and culture since the arrival of the earliest  
1-20 settlers; and

1-21 WHEREAS, Renowned for their horsemanship and stock-handling  
1-22 abilities, vaqueros were crucial to the advance of Spanish ranching  
1-23 into South Texas; their skills and fortitude contributed to the  
1-24 development of large, open-range cattle ranches in the area south  
1-25 of the Nueces River during the Spanish colonial era; these ranches  
1-26 left an imprint on the landscape that is still visible today in  
1-27 fortified stone blockhouses and ranch outbuildings, in historic  
1-28 chapels and cemeteries, and in hand-dug wells and reservoirs that  
1-29 were used to water enormous herds of livestock; and

1-30 WHEREAS, With the expansion of the Texas cattle industry in  
1-31 the 1800s, the vaquero's traditions came to shape ranching  
1-32 practices far beyond the Nueces; much of the equipment used by the  
1-33 vaqueros, including the bandana, hat, chaps, lasso, spurs, and  
1-34 saddle, were adopted by all Texas cowboys, as were the vaquero  
1-35 techniques employed in mounted herding and roping; moreover, the  
1-36 system of range and cattle management that evolved in Texas  
1-37 subsequently spread across the High Plains and throughout the  
1-38 American West; and

1-39 WHEREAS, Endowed with soils better suited to livestock  
1-40 production than farming, the area of present-day Jim Hogg County  
1-41 has beckoned ranchers for the past two centuries; the first known  
1-42 grant within the borders of today's county was made to Xavier Vela  
1-43 in 1805 and encompassed nearly 18,000 acres; between 1805 and 1836,  
1-44 approximately 25 grants were conferred within the area; and

1-45 WHEREAS, Among the first ranches were Las Noriacitas, Las  
1-46 Animas, San Antonio Viejo, Las Enramadas, Las Viboritas, El  
1-47 Baluarte, and San Javier; another of the early operations, Randado,  
1-48 was originally founded in 1830 by Hipolito Garcia and ultimately  
1-49 became the most famous holding in the county; encompassing more  
1-50 than 100,000 acres, it was renowned for its vast herd of Spanish  
1-51 ponies, which by the 1870s numbered some 3,000 head, and for the  
1-52 fine leather and horsehair accoutrements fashioned by its vaqueros;  
1-53 the name of the ranch, in fact, refers to the production there of an  
1-54 elaborate style of lasso, the *randa*; Robert E. Lee, who spent time  
1-55 in Texas before the Civil War, wrote about his visit to Randado, and  
1-56 the ranch figures in literary works by John Houghton Allen, Tom Lea,  
1-57 and J. Frank Dobie; and

1-58 WHEREAS, Ranching remains one of the chief pillars of the  
1-59 economy in Jim Hogg County, and most communities in the area have  
1-60 ranching roots or associations; Agua Nueva, Cuevitas, Guerra, and  
1-61 Randado all originated as ranching settlements; Hebbronville, the

2-1 county seat, is located on land that once formed part of Las  
2-2 Noriacitas; the town's namesake, W. R. Hebbbron, acquired the site  
2-3 from descendants of the original grantee about 1880, and in 1883 he  
2-4 established Hebbbronville along the route of the Texas Mexican  
2-5 Railway; for a time, the town ranked as the largest cattle shipping  
2-6 center in the country, and it remains a hub of ranching activity  
2-7 today; and

2-8 WHEREAS, Over the course of more than two centuries, the  
2-9 vaquero has contributed immeasurably to the rich ranching heritage  
2-10 of South Texas and of the Lone Star State as a whole, and it is  
2-11 indeed fitting that the county where vaqueros have played such an  
2-12 influential role be appropriately recognized; now, therefore, be it

2-13 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2-14 hereby redesignate Jim Hogg County as the official Vaquero Capital  
2-15 of Texas; and, be it further

2-16 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
2-17 [391.003](#)(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
2-18 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
2-19 passed by the legislature.

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