

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2           WHEREAS, North American bison have roamed the continent for  
3 some 25,000 years, with up to 60 million estimated to have covered  
4 the range in the 1700s, and the land that would eventually become  
5 Texas was home to many herds; and

6           WHEREAS, Also known as the American buffalo, the animals were  
7 central to the livelihood of Native Americans; the Apaches of West  
8 Texas, the Hainai Indians of East Texas, and numerous other tribes  
9 revered the bison and depended on it for food, shelter, and  
10 clothing; by the end of the 19th century, however, hunting had  
11 nearly exterminated the entire species; and

12           WHEREAS, Without the visionary work of "The Father of the  
13 Panhandle of Texas," Charles Goodnight, the bison may have  
14 permanently disappeared from the Lone Star State; in the late  
15 1870s, this noted Texas Ranger and rancher captured two buffalo  
16 calves and gave them to his wife, Mary Ann, who fed and cared for  
17 them at the JA Ranch; the Goodnights went on to develop a small  
18 herd, which formed one of the five foundation herds in the United  
19 States and helped produce the buffalo population that exists to  
20 this day; descendants of the original Goodnight bison were moved to  
21 Caprock Canyons State Park and are known today as the Texas State  
22 Bison Herd; and

23           WHEREAS, The bison industry is a growing component of the  
24 state's diverse agricultural landscape; since 2008, its

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1 significance has been commemorated with the observance of Texas  
2 Bison Week during the first week of May, a time that also marks the  
3 beginning of calving season; and

4       WHEREAS, The iconic image of the American buffalo has long  
5 been associated with wildlife preservation and Native American  
6 traditions as well as the state's western heritage, as evidenced by  
7 the buffalo's induction in the Texas Trail of Fame and its  
8 prominence as the centerpiece of the seal of the General Land  
9 Office; in the Panhandle, a bronze sculpture by Veryl Goodnight of  
10 Mary Ann Goodnight bottle-feeding a buffalo calf now stands at the  
11 historic JA Ranch and Armstrong County Museum as a fitting tribute  
12 to the Goodnights' role in saving the southern herd from  
13 extinction, and it is indeed appropriate to celebrate this rich  
14 legacy in the Lone Star State each spring; now, therefore, be it

15       RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
16 hereby designate the first week of May each year from 2013 through  
17 2022 as Texas Bison Week.

S.C.R. No. 20

David Dewhurst  
President of the Senate

Joe Straus  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 20 was adopted by the Senate on March 21, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Aetsy Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 20 was adopted by the House on May 14, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Robert Hamey  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

14 JUNE '13  
Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
10 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 14 2013

[Signature]  
Secretary of State