WHEREAS, The diversity of Texas agriculture is one of the strengths of our economy, and over the years, the pumpkin has become an important crop in the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, A variety of squash that is native to North America, the pumpkin can vary in size from one pound to over a thousand; while pumpkins are usually orange or yellow, they are sometimes also dark green, white, red, or gray; they are remarkable for their durability, for they can be grown quickly and then stored for as long as six months; pumpkins are capable of being cultivated on every continent on earth except Antarctica; and

WHEREAS, With its distinctive shape and lightly ribbed surface, the pumpkin is especially associated with two holidays, Halloween, when carved jack-o'-lanterns light up the front porches of houses across America, and Thanksgiving, when no family feast is complete without a slice of pumpkin pie; each year, 80 percent of pumpkin sales occur in October; and

WHEREAS, Texans have long made great use of the pumpkin; before refrigeration, ranchers relied on the hardy pumpkin to feed their livestock during the winter months; once considered a cure for freckles and snakebite, the pumpkin is now valued by health-conscious Texans as a good source of vitamin A, potassium, and fiber; in addition, Texas has become the fourth leading state in commercial pumpkin production, growing between 15 and 20 million of them annually, mostly in West Texas; pumpkins generate
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whereas, During a time when a majority of Texans are living in
cities, the pumpkin has begun to represent more than just
trick-or-treat or a favorite type of pie, and such distinctive
varieties of pumpkin as the Fairytale, the Caspar, and the Atlantic
Giant have come to be used by families to decorate their homes,
serving as welcome reminders of the Lone Star State's traditional
rural heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
hereby designate the pumpkin as the official State Squash of Texas.

Springer
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President of the Senate

I certify that H.C.R. No. 87 was adopted by the House on April 25, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 87 was adopted by the Senate on May 17, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 14 JUNE '13

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE 10 PM O'CLOCK JUN 14 2013

Secretary of State