

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Texans have long made great use of the pumpkin;
18 before refrigeration, ranchers relied on the hardy pumpkin to feed
19 their livestock during the winter months; once considered a cure
20 for freckles and snakebite, the pumpkin is now valued by
21 health-conscious Texans as a good source of vitamin A, potassium,
22 and fiber; in addition, Texas has become the fourth leading state in
23 commercial pumpkin production, growing between 15 and 20 million of
24 them annually, mostly in West Texas; pumpkins generate

1 approximately \$10 million for the Texas economy every year; and

2 WHEREAS, During a time when a majority of Texans are living in
3 cities, the pumpkin has begun to represent more than just
4 trick-or-treat or a favorite type of pie, and such distinctive
5 varieties of pumpkin as the Fairytale, the Caspar, and the Atlantic
6 Giant have come to be used by families to decorate their homes,
7 serving as welcome reminders of the Lone Star State's traditional
8 rural heritage; now, therefore, be it

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

Springer

David Newhurst

President of the Senate

Joe Straus

Speaker of the House

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.

Robert Haney

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.

Aetsy Gawn

Secretary of the Senate

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