

SUBJECT: Designating May 5 as Tejano Heritage Day

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Swinford, Miller, B. Cook, J. Keffer, Martinez Fischer, Wong
2 nays — Farrar, Villarreal
1 absent — Gattis

WITNESSES: For — Emilio Zamora
Against — None

DIGEST: CSHB 317 would designate May 5 as “Tejano Heritage Day.” This day would be regularly observed in the manner of other notable historical celebrations with programs and activities in the public schools and other places to recognize and appreciate the contributions Tejanos have made to Texas and the world.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2005.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Designating May 5 as Tejano Heritage Day would enable Texans to honor and learn about the contributions that Tejanos have made and continue to make to this state. It is important to set aside a day in statute for the recognition and appreciation in schools, community organizations, and throughout the state of Tejano achievements and culture.

Choosing Cinco de Mayo as Tejano Heritage Day would be a great vehicle to talk about the contributions Tejanos have made to history. CSHB 317 would not take away from the significance of Cinco de Mayo. Instead, it would enhance the holiday’s standing in Texas because a Tejano general was a hero in the battle celebrated on Cinco de Mayo — a Mexican victory over the French in 1862.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

Tejano Heritage Day would be important to Texas, but it should be held on a day other than Cinco de Mayo, which already is a celebrated event in Texas.

NOTES:

The committee substitute deleted the section of the bill that would have named the bill the "Jesus Bazan/Antonio Longoria Act."