

SUBJECT: Designating November 7 as Victims of Communism Day

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation and Tourism — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — K. King, Gervin-Hawkins, Burns, Clardy, Frullo, Israel, Krause, Martinez, C. Morales

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Elida Dakoli, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation; Brad Hodges; Amber Williams; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jason Vaughn, Texas Young Republicans; Frank Holman; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Idona Griffith)

DIGEST: HB 1057 would designate November 7 as Victims of Communism Day in memory of the more than 100 million people who died and countless others who suffered under communist regimes. Victims of Communism Day could be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 1057 would recognize and honor the victims who have suffered and died under communist rule. Victims of Communism Day would help raise awareness and educate future generations about the crimes perpetrated by communist regimes in the 20th century and that continue in some countries to this day.

The date of Victims of Communism Day, November 7, marks the day in 1917 when the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia, which led to the creation of the world's first communist government. The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation designated the date as part of a 50-state movement to remember the victims of communism.

Texas has a designated Holocaust Remembrance Week to remember the victims of fascism, and this bill would help ensure that the victims of

communism are treated with the same dignity and are not forgotten.

CRITICS
SAY:

It would be better for HB 1057 to condemn totalitarianism, murder, and crimes against humanity in all forms and avoid conflating the actions of specific governments in history with a broad political philosophy.