

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R4638 MW-D

S.C.R. 9
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Administration
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The State of Texas traditionally has recognized a variety of official state symbols as tangible representations of the proud spirit and heritage of our state. The bluebonnet, the pecan tree, the Guadalupe bass, and the lightning whelk are examples of some natural specimens that serve to symbolize the great diversity of the Texas landscape, while the state dish, chili, fittingly represents another aspect of our shared culture as Texans. In keeping with this custom, the designation of the cast iron Dutch oven as the official State Cooking Implement would provide suitable recognition for this sturdy utensil.

A welcome and dependable fixture at campfires across the Lone Star State, the Dutch oven was used extensively by Spanish explorers, early settlers, ranchers, and chuckwagon cooks over the course of Texas' history. The Dutch oven has also remained a popular item with a vast number of Texans today, and in January 1995, the Lone Star Dutch Oven Society was founded to promote its use throughout the state. Ideal for use in moist-cooking methods, such as braising and stewing, the Dutch oven's versatility has made it the food preparation implement of choice of both the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America. Renowned for its portability and durability, the cast iron Dutch oven has been a cooking mainstay of Texans from the time of the pioneers to the current day, and it is indeed appropriate that it receive special legislative recognition for its role in our state's history and culture.

RESOLVED

That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate the cast iron Dutch oven as the official State Cooking Implement.