

(The House considered SB 495 by Hinojosa, the Senate companion bill, in lieu of HB 661, the House version of the bill, which had been set on the daily calendar and was analyzed by the House Research Organization. The bill subsequently was enacted as SB 495.)

HOUSE  
RESEARCH  
ORGANIZATION bill digest

5/8/2009

HB 661  
Herrero, et al.

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**SUBJECT:** Designating a recognition day to honor Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

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

**VOTE:** 6 ayes — Homer, D. Howard, T. King, Kleinschmidt, Phillips, Thibaut  
0 nays  
3 absent — Dukes, Kuempel, McCall

**WITNESSES:** For — Cecilia Garcia Akers; Patrick Birmingham, Corpus Christi Caller-Times; Barbara Canales, for Dr. Hector P. Garcia family; Scott Elliff; Paul Herrera, Joe Ortiz, The American GI Forum of Corpus Christi, Texas; John Maline; Elizabeth Protas; Gil Rodriguez, American GI Forum; Patricia M. Vazquez-Contez; (*Registered, but did not testify*:: Hugo Berlanga; Elizabeth C. Garcia; Rudy Garza, City of Corpus Christi; Vilma Luna; Samuel L. Neal Jr., Nueces County Commissioners Court)  
  
Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Dr. Hector P. Garcia significantly contributed to the Mexican-American civil rights movement. He was a distinguished physician, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and a World War II hero who was awarded a Bronze Star medal with six battle stars. Also, in 1948, he founded the American GI Forum, which promotes civil rights protections for Hispanic veterans and all Americans.

**DIGEST:** HB 661 would designate the third Wednesday in September as “Dr. Hector P. Garcia Day.” This day would be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies and activities in public schools, communities, and other places to properly commemorate the importance of the contributions made by Dr. Garcia.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 495 by Hinojosa, passed the Senate by 30-0 on April 23 on the Local and Uncontested Calendar and was reported favorably, without amendment, by the House Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee on May 7, making it eligible to be considered in lieu of HB 661.