

SUBJECT: Designating Dr. Pepper as the state soft drink

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation and Tourism — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — K. King, Gervin-Hawkins, Burns, Clardy, Israel, Krause, Martinez, C. Morales

0 nays

1 absent — Frullo

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jason Vaughn, Texas Young Republicans; Paul Gescheidle; Allen Gescheidle; Thomas Parkinson; Leticia Van de Putte)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dorothy Ann Compton)

BACKGROUND: Government Code ch. 3101 describes the adoption of state symbols, such as the state seal, motto, song, tree, bird and flower.

Interested parties note that Texas does not officially recognize a state soft drink. There have been calls to designate Dr. Pepper, which is the oldest major soft drink brand in America and was invented by a Waco pharmacist in 1885, as the state soft drink.

DIGEST: CSHB 4554 would designate Dr. Pepper as the state soft drink.

The bill's provisions would expire September 1, 2031.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.