

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to designate March 20, 2021, as "Tennessee Tree Day."

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the most biologically diverse inland state in these United States; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a state of robust forest cover; and

WHEREAS, forests and trees within our communities provide myriad benefits to Tennessee's economy, community, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in certain areas, ongoing human development, natural disasters, and other causes are responsible for the loss of trees and forest cover every year; and

WHEREAS, there is a perpetual need to encourage Tennesseans within their communities to grow our State's tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) has been organizing large-scale tree planting events annually since 2007, resulting in nearly 700,000 native trees being planted in all ninety-five counties; and

WHEREAS, more than 60,000 Tennesseans have participated in these events since 2007, and the public demand for planting trees is strong, year after year; and

WHEREAS, partnerships and cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture-Division of Forestry, UT Extension, local storm water agencies, rural electric cooperatives, public works departments, and hundreds of local community organizations and agencies are integral to the success of TEC's statewide tree-planting efforts; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the native trees planted in these events are grown at the Tennessee Division of Forestry's East Tennessee Nursery in Delano, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Tennessee Environmental Council shall engage thousands of volunteer participants in planting 60,000 native trees across all ninety-five counties on March 20th; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we designate Saturday, March 20, 2021, as "Tennessee Tree Day," during which day Tennesseans are encouraged to participate in tree-planting events in their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Environmental Council is recognized as the leading organization driving these events, and TEC pledges to continue offering tree seedlings, educational information, and coordination as community support, resources, and capacity allow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.