

2012 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 105

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 11, 2012

Designating the full week before Thanksgiving, in 2012 and in each succeeding year, as Virginia Cider Week in Virginia.

Patrons—Englin and Scott, E.T.

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, since Colonial times, cider has played an important role in the cultural and culinary heritage of the Commonwealth and nation; and

WHEREAS, early settlers planted orchards and fermented the juice from the apples, yielding a beverage that provided essential vitamins and nutrients during lean winters, while vinegar, made from the cider, was used for antiseptic and medicinal purposes; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson, at his beloved Monticello in Virginia's beautiful Piedmont region, planted two orchards specifically for cider production, sharing the hearty beverage with his family and many guests; and

WHEREAS, as settlers planted seedling orchards, they developed new varieties of apples that were particularly well suited to the climate and soils of the new land, many of which continue to be grown today; and

WHEREAS, over time, as the nation shifted from an agrarian to industrial society, and with the advent of Prohibition, the number of orchards producing apples for cider and cider production diminished; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, cider production has experienced a resurgence, with five hard cider producers currently operating in the Commonwealth and more expected to open in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the cider industry enhances the preservation of agricultural lands, contributes to the Commonwealth's agricultural industry, provides additional opportunities for agritourism, and encourages individuals to enjoy a traditional Virginia beverage; and

WHEREAS, Virginia cider serves as an excellent complement to many cuisines, especially those traditional dishes commonly enjoyed during the holiday season; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the full week before Thanksgiving, in 2012 and in each succeeding year, as Virginia Cider Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this week on the General Assembly's website.

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