

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.C.R. 11  
By: Hughes  
Committee To Be Determined | Never Referred  
6/21/2019  
Enrolled

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Family-owned businesses play a vital role in the prosperity of the Lone Star State, and in 2018, the Shoults family of Marshall celebrated the 75th anniversary of Bear Creek Smokehouse.

This iconic enterprise was established in 1943, when Hick and Nellie Shoults set up a small smokehouse and began smoking the turkeys they raised on their farm. Aided from the start by their son, Bobby, the family first sold their turkeys through local grocers, and as their products became more popular, they further developed their seasonal business to include a wider selection of smoked meats, including beef, pork, and chicken.

The family eventually stopped raising their own livestock and focused on expanding the smokehouse operations, and in 1959, Bobby Shoults's new bride, Brenda, joined the company, helping take catalog orders from customers across the nation. When Bobby and Brenda's son, Robbie, came aboard, he took the smokehouse in a new direction, opening a general store to supplement the wholesale business.

Bobby Shoults passed away in 2017, but Bear Creek continues to thrive under the leadership of his son, Robbie, his grandson, Hunter, and their wives, Tracy and Stacia, as well as through the invaluable efforts of their more than 50 employees. In October 2018, the business entered a new phase with the grand opening of a 10,000-square-foot general store and event center, which is available for weddings, reunions, and parties.

Over the course of three-quarters of a century, four generations of the Shoults family have built one of the signature businesses of East Texas, and by creating jobs and helping to strengthen the economic environment of Marshall, Bear Creek Smokehouse is contributing to the vitality of that community.

### **RESOLVED**

That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas congratulate the members of the Shoults family on the 75th anniversary of Bear Creek Smokehouse and extend to them and to their employees sincere best wishes for continued success.

That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Shoults family as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.