

By Senator Bean

4-04730-13

20131894

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the ballad "I Am Florida" as one of the official state songs of this state and as a companion piece to "The Swanee River (Old Folks at Home)."

WHEREAS, the ballad "I Am Florida" was produced and recorded by Walter "Clyde" Orange, a Grammy Award-winning songwriter, vocalist, and founding member of The Commodores, and

WHEREAS, Clyde Orange, Adrian Rezza, and Lucas Rezza wrote the ballad, which was inspired by the lyrics of the poem "I Am Florida," written by South Florida author Allen Autry, Sr., in 2010, and

WHEREAS, Autry's poem "I Am Florida" reflects Clyde Orange's deep love and affection for his birthplace and home, and so he composed the ballad "I Am Florida" to lovingly reflect the beauty and history of this great state, and

WHEREAS, the ballad "I Am Florida" illustrates the reasons that millions of men and women, families, and retired persons have made the state their home and references historical milestones that have contributed to the growth of this state, and

WHEREAS, widely appealing throughout the country, the ballad "I Am Florida" is an outstanding example of what brings so many people to this culturally rich state, and

WHEREAS, recognition of "I Am Florida" as one of the official state songs of Florida is in no way intended to supplant "The Swanee River (Old Folks at Home)" as the official state song, but, instead, "I Am Florida" should be recognized as

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30 a companion piece, NOW, THEREFORE,

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32 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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34 That we recognize the ballad "I Am Florida," written by
35 Walter "Clyde" Orange, as one of the official state songs of
36 this state and as a companion piece to "The Swanee River (Old
37 Folks at Home)."