

By Senator Forman

32-2061-98

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution recognizing the importance of research into the preservation of Florida's sea turtles.

WHEREAS, Florida's waters are home to a number of species of sea turtles, including the green sea turtle and the loggerhead sea turtle, all of which are listed by the state and the Federal Government as threatened or endangered, and

WHEREAS, although identified as threatened or endangered, and thereby protected by law, Florida's sea turtles continue to face a host of threats to their survival, and

WHEREAS, the green sea turtle and loggerhead sea turtle are currently victims of fibropapilloma, a fatal disease of unknown cause, which is at epidemic levels in certain areas of Florida, and the seriousness of this disease has been amply attested by wildlife and sea turtle biologists, whose research efforts have been documented in several reports and papers, and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has established a Sea Turtle Recovery Plan for both green sea turtles and loggerhead sea turtles and is working with the Department of Environmental Protection in tagging, releasing, and recovering both green and loggerhead sea turtles and assisting in the disposal of diseased and dead turtles, and

WHEREAS, despite some fibropapilloma research, much more is required in order to effectively protect both the green sea turtle and the loggerhead sea turtle, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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3 That the Senate recognizes that fibropapilloma is
4 indeed a serious threat to the survival of the state's green
5 sea turtles and loggerhead sea turtles, both protected by
6 state and federal law, and urges that research into the
7 preservation of these species be viewed as a matter of
8 pressing concern.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution
10 be dispatched to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the
11 Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Marine
12 Research Institute.

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