By Representatives Starks, Valdes, Farkas, Dennis, Lynn, Argenziano, Sobel, Melvin, Hafner, Bush, Barreiro and Bloom

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the importance of tourism to the State of Florida and designating the month of May as "Florida Tourism Month."

WHEREAS, travel and tourism support the vital interests of the State of Florida and the United States, contributing greatly to employment, economic prosperity, international trade and relations, peace, understanding, and goodwill, and

WHEREAS, the combination of travel and tourism comprises the state's largest industry in terms of revenues generated, and

WHEREAS, the nearly 48.7 million people who visited the state in 1998 were responsible for \$43 billion in tourism and recreation sales and supported 820,000 tourism-related jobs for that calendar year, and

WHEREAS, as people throughout the world become more aware of the outstanding cultural and recreational activities offered by the state and the nation, travel and tourism will become increasingly important aspects in the lives of Floridians, and

WHEREAS, given these laudable contributions to the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the residents of the state, it is fitting that the importance of the tourism and hospitality industry be recognized, that the continued vitality of the tourism and hospitality industry be encouraged, and that the public and private sectors be made aware of the role and contributions of tourism to Florida's economy and quality of life, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That the month of May is hereby designated "Florida Tourism Month" and the citizens of the State of Florida are called upon to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.