

By Senator King

8-1434-00

See HB

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing December 15, 2000, as

3 Bill of Rights Day.

4

5 WHEREAS, the first 10 amendments to the United States

6 Constitution are referred to as the Bill of Rights, which

7 limit and define the powers of government, and

8 WHEREAS, several of the original states refused to

9 ratify the Constitution without an express Bill of Rights, and

10 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights recognizes, affirms, and

11 protects fundamental human and civil rights for which persons

12 of all races have struggled for thousands of years, and

13 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights secures our freedom to

14 speak, print, read, assemble, pray, petition the government,

15 and keep and bear arms; protects us from unreasonable arrests

16 and searches, excessive bail, double jeopardy, coerced

17 confessions, and cruel and unusual punishment; and secures our

18 rights to due process, jury trials, and counsel, and to

19 present defense witnesses, and

20 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights protects our sovereign

21 state from the excesses of the Federal Government, and

22 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights is integral to the American

23 way of life, and America celebrates a variety of civic

24 holidays that remind us of the special contributions and

25 sacrifices made by our forefathers and leaders to preserve,

26 protect, and extend our freedoms, and

27 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights energizes our military

28 defense because members of the Armed Services of the United

29 States swear an oath to preserve and defend the United States

30 Constitution, which includes the Bill of Rights, and when

31 American military personnel fight and die for our country,

1 they do so to protect our rights and freedoms under the Bill
2 of Rights, and

3 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would help prevent the
4 Bill of Rights from being otherwise forgotten, and since many
5 Americans do not know the Bill of Rights, this special day
6 would encourage our schools to teach children this aspect of
7 our American heritage, and

8 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would declare America's
9 commitment to fundamental human rights to the whole world, and

10 WHEREAS, just as celebrating religious holidays reminds
11 Americans of our religious beliefs and traditions, a Bill of
12 Rights Day would remind Americans of the manner in which our
13 history and philosophy have secured the rights for which
14 oppressed people everywhere still yearn, and

15 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would be a memorial day
16 honoring the personal sacrifices and deaths of countless
17 millions of people who have struggled for basic human and
18 civil rights over thousands of years, and

19 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would remind all elected
20 and appointed officials and employees of the state and local
21 executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government
22 that their authority and powers are limited, and

23 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would remind all members
24 of government that they serve the citizens, not rule them, and
25 that the citizens always hold the right to restrain
26 government, and

27 WHEREAS, the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Bill
28 of Rights deserve perennial celebrations and the sacrifices
29 made to protect the Bill of Rights deserve eternal
30 remembrance, and

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1 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights of the United States
2 Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791, NOW,
3 THEREFORE,

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

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7 That December 15, 2000, is recognized as Bill of Rights
8 Day in Florida.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all governmental bodies in
10 Florida be encouraged to observe the Bill of Rights Day in a
11 manner that brings to mind the meaning and importance of each
12 of the 10 provisions contained in this resolution.

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