

By Representative Lynn

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House Resolution

A resolution supporting civic education and
declaring the third Friday of September 2000 as
Florida's Legislators Back to School Day.

WHEREAS, Florida was created as a representative
democracy in which all governmental power is inherent in the
people who exercise that power through the legislative,
executive, and judicial branches, and

WHEREAS, the changing political environment requires an
increased knowledge of the citizenry on the role of state
legislatures in assuring that the voice of all people will be
heard and the issues of public policy will be openly debated,
and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of
Independence stated, "There is but one method of rendering a
republican form of government durable, and that is by
disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every
part of the state by means of proper places and modes of
education and this can be done effectively only by the aid of
the legislature," and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures
(NCSL) has passed a resolution which asserts that the
operations of the state legislatures and the roles of
individual legislators are often little understood by
citizens, and that public understanding of the institutions
and processes of the government is critical to building public
trust and confidence, and

WHEREAS, the NCSL resolution also declares that state
legislatures need to bring about better understanding of the
concept of representative democracy and that education about

1 representative democracy should emphasize the importance of
2 compromise and the difficulty of resolving competing interests
3 in a diverse society, and

4 WHEREAS, civic education is a vital tool to promote
5 greater understanding of the legislative institution and the
6 role of legislators in representative democracy, and

7 WHEREAS, the NCSL urges the nation's state legislatures
8 to promote civic education about representative democracy, and

9 WHEREAS, the NCSL has established America's Legislators
10 Back to School Day, a national day on which state legislators
11 across the nation visit schools and classrooms to talk about
12 the Legislature and to observe activities in the schools, and

13 WHEREAS, legislators will benefit from interacting with
14 students, teachers, and administrators, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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19 That the Florida Legislature supports civic education
20 to promote greater understanding of the legislative
21 institution and the role of legislators in representative
22 democracy.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Legislature
24 declares that the third Friday in September 2000 shall be
25 designated as Florida's Legislators Back to School Day and
26 urges all members of the Legislature to visit schools on that
27 day.