

By Senator Lawson

3-1334-02

1 Senate Resolution No. _____

2 A resolution recognizing September 2002 as Take
3 Your Dad to School Month in this state.

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5 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education published a
6 study in 1998, entitled "Fathers' Involvement in Their
7 Children's Schools," which revealed that children whose
8 fathers participate in their school activities, when compared
9 to children whose fathers do not, are more likely to get
10 higher grades, enjoy school, and participate in
11 extracurricular activities and less likely to have ever
12 repeated a grade or been suspended or expelled from school,
13 and

14 WHEREAS, one study has indicated that low parental
15 involvement was among the factors that increased the odds that
16 a child would engage in antisocial behaviors such as fighting,
17 lying, cheating, and criminal activity, and

18 WHEREAS, a 1999 poll discovered that 40.2 percent of
19 fathers never read to their children, fewer than half of
20 fathers between the ages of 25 and 44 knew the name of their
21 children's teachers, 32.4 percent had never attended a class
22 event or school meeting, 77 percent had never had lunch with
23 their children at school, and 58 percent had never volunteered
24 at their children's schools, and

25 WHEREAS, children who have the benefit of two
26 supportive parents, even if those parents are separated, are
27 less likely to live in poverty, drop out of school, or become
28 involved in delinquent behavior, are at lower risk for teen
29 pregnancy, and are less likely to become involved in an
30 abusive relationship, and

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1 WHEREAS, children who have the benefit of a healthy,
2 active relationship with their fathers are more likely to be
3 well-adjusted in adolescence and adulthood, and

4 WHEREAS, fathers are increasingly being encouraged by
5 all segments of society to take an active part in their
6 children's activities, and

7 WHEREAS, children whose fathers are not present benefit
8 from a relationship with nurturing and actively involved
9 father figures, such as grandfathers, uncles, Big Brothers,
10 mentors, and significant others of their mothers, and

11 WHEREAS, men who are involved with their children feel
12 better about themselves and have greater success in their
13 careers and lives, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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17 That September 2002 is recognized as Take Your Dad to
18 School Month in Florida and that the Senate extends its best
19 wishes to all children and their fathers for a most enjoyable
20 adventure.

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