

By Senator Argenziano

3-1586A-03

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing 2003 as the "Year of
3 the Blues" in the State of Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Blues music is the most influential form of
6 American roots music, being heard around the world in Rock 'n
7 Roll, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Country, and even in modern
8 Classical music, and

9 WHEREAS, many organizations throughout the nation,
10 including the State of Florida, are dedicated to promoting,
11 nurturing, and preserving the Blues for future generations,
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Blues is an important documentation of
14 African-American culture and American history since the turn
15 of the 19th century, with significance for race relations, pop
16 culture, and the nation's migration from a rural to an urban
17 society, and

18 WHEREAS, the Blues is the most celebrated form of
19 American roots music, as is evident from the hundreds of
20 festivals annually conducted around the nation and in Florida,
21 such as the "Freedom Blues Festival" in Tallahassee,
22 "Springing the Blues" in Jacksonville Beach, and the "Sarasota
23 Blues Fest", as well as major festivals in Tampa, Ft.
24 Lauderdale, Dunnellon and Levy County, and other areas in the
25 State of Florida, and

26 WHEREAS, the Blues and Blues musicians old and new,
27 male and female, originating from every state in the nation
28 including Florida are recognized and revered worldwide as
29 unique and important ambassadors of America and its music, and

30 WHEREAS, there are organizations in Florida, such as
31 the Apalachee Blues Society in Tallahassee, the Suncoast Blues

1 Society in Tampa, the Blues Society of Northwest Florida in
2 Pensacola, and the South Florida Blues Society in Ft.
3 Lauderdale, dedicated to preserving, nurturing, and promoting
4 the Blues throughout Florida, and

5 WHEREAS, there are many living legends of the Blues
6 from Florida who should be recognized and have their stories
7 and music preserved for future generations to appreciate, and

8 WHEREAS, the year 2003 is the Centennial Anniversary of
9 the year W.C. Handy, upon being inspired by music he heard in
10 a railroad station, began composing the first Blues music
11 distributed throughout the nation, leading to his being
12 designated the "Father of the Blues," NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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16 That the Florida Senate recognizes 2003 as the "Year of
17 the Blues" in the State of Florida, and requests that the
18 Governor of Florida issue an Executive Proclamation calling on
19 the citizens of the state to observe 2003 as the "Year of the
20 Blues" through appropriate ceremonies, festivals, activities,
21 and educational programs.

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