

By Senator Wise

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Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

A resolution recognizing the week of March 29 to April 4, 2005, as Merit Shop Construction Week in Florida.

WHEREAS, the construction industry in Florida employs more than 404,000 men and women and is the fourth-largest industry in Florida according to the Florida Statistical Abstract, and

WHEREAS, total employment in the Florida construction industry is more than double the state's cumulative employment in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the construction industry has a minority employment rate of 30.7 percent, and

WHEREAS, merit shop construction has a record of higher workplace safety and lower fatality rates than union shops and the industry average, and

WHEREAS, construction in Florida produces an annual payroll in excess of \$8.8 billion, and

WHEREAS, construction in Florida contributes nearly \$914 million in sales and use tax collected each year, and

WHEREAS, Florida's Constitution guarantees that "the right of persons to work shall not be denied or abridged on account of membership or nonmembership in any labor union or labor organization," NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That March 29, 2005, through April 4, 2005, is recognized as Merit Shop Construction Week in Florida.