

By Senator Haridopolos

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution recognizing March 10, 2005, as "APPRENTICESHIP Day" and honoring the APPRENTICESHIP Program for contributing to a growing and prosperous Florida economy.

WHEREAS, the APPRENTICESHIP method of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction is found worldwide and has consistently been proven to be an effective efficient, and economical way to pass on trade and craft skills and knowledge needed by the builders of a country's economy, and

WHEREAS, since being incorporated into state law 57 years ago, Florida's APPRENTICESHIP Program has successfully taught multiple tens of thousands of students critical, industry-identified skills and knowledge necessary for apprentices to take their places as sought-after, skilled craftpersons, a diversification that helps keep our economy growing by being built upon enduring strengths, and

WHEREAS, those students who complete the APPRENTICESHIP Program consistently earn higher salaries than students earning college degrees through the baccalaureate level, and

WHEREAS, research shows that Florida's apprentices seldom require public assistance and are likely to remain in the high-skill, high-wage fields in which they received their training, and

WHEREAS, Florida's current APPRENTICESHIP Program trains 113,253 apprentices in 293 programs throughout the state, ranking Florida in the top 10 percent nationally in the number of apprentices served, and

WHEREAS, the registered apprenticeship system guarantees the availability of a quality workforce, trained to

1 | the exacting standards of Florida's trades, while at the same
2 | time improving the training standards of business and
3 | industry, and

4 | WHEREAS, Florida's APPRENTICESHIP Program welcomes all
5 | apprentices 16 years of age and older without regard to gender
6 | or ethnicity, helping Florida's economy to flourish and
7 | maintain a competitive edge nationally and internationally
8 | through its diversified workforce, and

9 | WHEREAS, it is commonly known that the effectiveness
10 | and uniqueness of Florida's registered APPRENTICESHIP Program
11 | is, in part, due to the unique cooperation and strong
12 | partnerships forged among the business and industry sectors,
13 | apprenticeship program sponsors, the educational community,
14 | and dedicated students who are highly motivated to learn, and

15 | WHEREAS, registered APPRENTICESHIP Programs are an
16 | essential part of our educational system and such programs are
17 | a critical component in the development and delivery of
18 | high-caliber and skilled craftspeople needed to continue the
19 | growth that has been Florida's hallmark, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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23 | That March 10, 2005, is recognized by the Florida
24 | Senate as APPRENTICESHIP Day in the state.
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