

By Senator Hill

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution honoring Florida's Legal Services and Legal Aid Attorneys and recognizing April 6, 2005, as "Legal Aid Day" in Tallahassee.

WHEREAS, more than 13 percent of all Floridians are living in poverty, and

WHEREAS, in passing the Florida Access to Civil Legal Assistance Act, the Florida Legislature has recognized the importance of civil legal assistance to the poor and the need to improve their access to justice, and

WHEREAS, in 1973, the Florida Bar and representatives of the Governor formed Florida Legal Services, Inc., to expand the availability of civil legal assistance to the poor in Florida, and

WHEREAS, Florida Legal Services, Inc., has become the lead organization for preserving and improving legal assistance to indigent and vulnerable Floridians through direct representation, legislative and administrative advocacy, training, technical support, and coordination of effort for the local legal services and legal aid offices that provide legal assistance in all of the state's 67 counties, and

WHEREAS, by working with local Legal Services and Legal Aid Attorneys throughout the state, and in conjunction with Florida legislators, Florida Legal Services, Inc., has successfully obtained legal protections for people moving from welfare to work, legal protection for Medicaid recipients, regulation of day-labor operations, legal protections for the homeless, legal protections for residential tenants, restrictions on predatory mortgage-lending practices, and

1 landmark legislation regulating title loans and payday loans,
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Florida's Legal Services and Legal Aid
4 Attorneys demonstrate commitment, dedication, and excellence
5 in securing access to justice for Florida's most vulnerable
6 and needy residents, NOW, THEREFORE,

7
8 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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10 That April 6, 2005, is recognized as "Legal Aid Day" in
11 Tallahassee in honor of the contributions that Legal Services
12 and Legal Aid Attorneys have made and continue to make towards
13 guaranteeing access to justice for the poor in Florida.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
15 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to each
16 Legal Services and Legal Aid Attorney in this state as a token
17 of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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