

HM 821

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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The State Administration Council recommends the following:

2  
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5  
6 House Memorial

7 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging  
8 Congress to ensure that the aircraft carrier USS John F.  
9 Kennedy remains in active service, that Naval Station  
10 Mayport remains the home port for the USS John F. Kennedy,  
11 and that the strength of the U.S. Navy's Atlantic carrier  
12 fleet is maintained at its current level.

13  
14 WHEREAS, the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy remains a  
15 vital component in our national defense and security, having  
16 recently completed a 6-month combat tour in Southwest Asia, and

17 WHEREAS, the USS John F. Kennedy has an immensely  
18 beneficial economic impact on the City of Jacksonville and the  
19 entire surrounding area, amounting to approximately \$200 million  
20 in revenue annually, and

21 WHEREAS, the USS John F. Kennedy underwent an extended  
22 pier-side overhaul in 2003 at a cost of over \$350 million, which  
23 was performed using local shipyards and technical support, and

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24 WHEREAS, the current home station of the USS John F.  
25 Kennedy, Naval Station Mayport, provides for the strategic  
26 dispersal of the United States Navy's Atlantic carrier fleet and  
27 speedy access to the open ocean in the event of an emergency and  
28 is one of the most requested duty stations in the United States  
29 Navy, and

30 WHEREAS, the State of Florida and City of Jacksonville are  
31 currently underwriting a study to determine the infrastructure  
32 improvements that would be needed in order to provide Naval  
33 Station Mayport with the capability of serving as a home port  
34 for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, and

35 WHEREAS, it is reported that the Department of Defense has  
36 determined that, in order to save funds in the immediate term,  
37 it will recommend to the President the elimination of the USS  
38 John F. Kennedy's scheduled shipyard overhaul which would extend  
39 its serviceable life to 2018, and will recommend that the ship  
40 be decommissioned in 2005, thus reducing the Navy's carrier  
41 fleet to 11 ships and placing all Atlantic-based carriers at one  
42 port, NOW, THEREFORE,

43  
44 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45  
46 That the Congress of the United States is urged to oppose  
47 decommissioning the USS John F. Kennedy from active status, is  
48 urged to allow Naval Station Mayport to remain the home port for  
49 the USS John F. Kennedy until such time as Naval Station Mayport  
50 has the capability to support and serve as the home port for a  
51 nuclear aircraft carrier, and is urged to maintain the strength

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52 | of the United States Navy's Atlantic carrier fleet at its  
53 | current level.

54 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
55 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
56 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
57 | United States House of Representatives, to the Secretary of  
58 | Defense, to the Secretary of the Navy, and to each member of the  
59 | Florida delegation to the United States Congress.