

By Senator Wise

5-1948-07

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## Senate Resolution

A resolution in support of the role of associations in Florida's economy and recognizing the Third Wednesday in March each year as "Associations Advance Florida Day."

WHEREAS, associations, originating with the guilds of medieval times, are one of the largest and most powerful forces in the United States today, yet they are also among the least recognized, and

WHEREAS, associations are simply people - groups of people who find strength in numbers in sharing common interests of industries, professions, charities, hobbies, or philanthropic action, and

WHEREAS, associations are founded upon the principles of democracy, volunteerism, and common interest that are the heart of the American experience, and

WHEREAS, associations, by definition, exist for the mutual protection and advancement of their members, and

WHEREAS, associations are known by many names - federations, alliances, institutes, guilds, societies, foundations, clubs, congresses, coalitions, centers, networks, chambers, bureaus, associations, fraternities, and sororities, and although they come in many shapes and sizes, they are all associations, sharing the twin goals of helping their members and advancing society, and

WHEREAS, associations represent an enormous collective presence, their work is woven throughout the fabric of society and the public has come to depend on the social and economic benefits that associations afford, and

1           WHEREAS, were it not for associations, government at  
2 all levels and other institutions would face added burdens in  
3 the vital activities they perform, such as setting and  
4 enforcing product and safety standards, stimulating and  
5 organizing volunteerism, conducting industry research,  
6 disseminating valuable information, providing continuing  
7 education, conducting political campaign fundraising and  
8 political education, and performing community service, and

9           WHEREAS, the estimate of the direct economic value of  
10 associations to the State of Florida is over \$1.2 billion each  
11 year, including payroll, rent and mortgage expenses,  
12 transportation, printing, office supplies, postage, lodging  
13 and facility accommodations, and educational programs, and

14           WHEREAS, the association community in Florida provides  
15 nearly 50,000 white-collar jobs, accommodates more than 2  
16 million meeting attendees, and spends \$122 million in hotels,  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, nearly three-quarters of hotel revenue in the  
19 state comes from meetings of associations, and

20           WHEREAS, associations sponsor more than 25,000 events  
21 in Florida annually, such as trade shows, committee and board  
22 meetings, and conventions and education programs, and

23           WHEREAS, associations pay nearly \$100 million in taxes  
24 each year, and

25           WHEREAS, associations staff and members donate more  
26 than 10 million hours of service to their associations and  
27 communities each year, NOW, THEREFORE,

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29 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:  
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1           That the Third Wednesday in March is recognized as  
2 "Associations Advance Florida Day."  
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