

By Senator Haridopolos

26-04096A-08

20082268__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 13, 2008, 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 60 years ago, Florida's APPRENTICESHIP Program has successfully taught multiple tens of thousands of students critical, industry-identified skills and knowledge, enabling apprentices to take their places as sought-after, skilled craftpersons, a diversification that helps keep our economy growing by building 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 15,131 apprentices in 285 programs throughout the state, ranking Florida in the top 10 percent nationally in the number of apprentices served, and

26-04096A-08

20082268__

30 WHEREAS, the registered apprenticeship system guarantees
31 the availability of a quality workforce, trained to the
32 exacting standards of Florida's trades, while at the same time
33 improving the training standards of business and industry, and

34 WHEREAS, Florida's APPRENTICESHIP Program welcomes all
35 apprentices 16 years of age and older without regard to gender
36 or ethnicity, helping Florida's economy to flourish and
37 maintain a competitive edge nationally and internationally
38 through its diversified workforce, and

39 WHEREAS, it is commonly known that the effectiveness and
40 uniqueness of Florida's registered APPRENTICESHIP Program is
41 due, in part, to the unique cooperation and strong partnerships
42 forged among the business and industry sectors, the
43 apprenticeship program sponsors, the educational community, and
44 the dedicated, highly motivated students in apprenticeship
45 programs, and

46 WHEREAS, registered APPRENTICESHIP Programs are an
47 essential part of our educational system and such programs are
48 a critical component in the development and delivery of high-
49 caliber and skilled craftspeople needed to continue the growth
50 that has been Florida's hallmark, NOW, THEREFORE,

51
52 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

53
54 That March 13, 2008, is recognized by the Florida Senate as
55 "APPRENTICESHIP Day" in the state.