

By Senator Haridopolos

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 12, 2009, as
3 "Apprenticeship Day 2009" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, the apprenticeship method of on-the-job training
6 and related classroom instruction is found worldwide and has
7 consistently been proven to be an effective, efficient, and
8 economical way to pass on trade and craft skills and knowledge
9 needed by the builders of a nation's economy, and

10 WHEREAS, since being incorporated into state law 62 years
11 ago, Florida's apprenticeship program has taught tens of
12 thousands of students critical, industry-identified skills and
13 knowledge necessary for apprentices to take their place as
14 sought-after, skilled craftpersons, creating a diversification
15 that helps keep the state's economy growing by being built upon
16 enduring strengths, and

17 WHEREAS, it has been repeatedly demonstrated that
18 apprenticeship completers consistently earn higher salaries than
19 students earning college degrees through the baccalaureate
20 level, that apprentices are likely to remain in the high-skill,
21 high-wage fields in which they received their training, and that
22 they have extremely low rates of public assistance, and

23 WHEREAS, Florida's current registered apprenticeship
24 program has 248 active apprenticeship programs throughout the
25 state training 14,599 apprentices, Florida consistently ranks in
26 the top 10 percent nationally in the number of apprentices
27 served; and Florida's registered apprenticeship system welcomes
28 all apprentices 16 years of age or older without regard to
29 gender or ethnicity, and

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30 WHEREAS, Florida's registered apprenticeship system
31 guarantees the availability of a quality workforce trained to
32 the exacting standards of the state's trades, while at the same
33 time improving the training standards of business and industry,
34 and it is on these strengths of a diversified workforce that
35 Florida's economy will flourish and maintain its competitive
36 edge nationally and internationally, and

37 WHEREAS, it is commonly known that the effectiveness and
38 uniqueness of Florida's registered apprenticeship program is in
39 part due to the unique cooperation and strong partnerships
40 forged among the business and industry sectors, the educational
41 community, apprenticeship program sponsors, and dedicated
42 students who are highly motivated to learn, and

43 WHEREAS, registered apprenticeship programs are an
44 essential part of our education system and such programs are a
45 critical component in the development and delivery of high-
46 caliber, skilled craftspeople needed to continue the growth that
47 has been Florida's hallmark, NOW, THEREFORE,

48
49 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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51 That March 12, 2009, is recognized as "Apprenticeship Day
52 2009" in Florida.