

By Senator Garcia

40-01303-09

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2009 as "Fair Housing Month."

WHEREAS, the federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or familial status, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Fair Housing Act in 1983 to ensure that the state makes every effort to provide fair housing opportunities to all persons, and to prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of housing due to race, color, national origin, gender, or religion, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature subsequently amended the Florida Fair Housing Act to expand the prohibition on discrimination to include familial status and persons with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, one out of every four or five Hispanic, African-American, Asian, or Native-American persons still faces discrimination when attempting to rent, purchase, or finance housing, and

WHEREAS, low-income and disabled persons and the elderly who attempt to purchase, refinance, or secure a reverse mortgage are targets for predatory lending and fraudulent loan practices, and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has proclaimed April 2009 as "National Fair Housing Month" and, further, has asked

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30 communities to remember the past and celebrate 41 years of
31 housing successes, and to ensure justice and housing
32 opportunities for all, and

33 WHEREAS, Florida has one of the highest foreclosure rates
34 in the country resulting in an alarming number of residents
35 losing their homes and being forced to find alternative housing,
36 and

37 WHEREAS, thorough and timely investigations conducted by
38 the Florida Commission on Human Relations found that, in 2007-
39 2008, housing discrimination on the basis of disability, race,
40 familial status, and national origin continued to occur in
41 Florida, and

42 WHEREAS, the Florida Commission on Human Relations
43 continues to expand its efforts to reach out to and educate
44 members of the housing industry on fair housing laws and on
45 industry responsibilities in providing fair housing
46 opportunities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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50 That April 2009 is recognized as "Fair Housing Month" in
51 the State of Florida, and the Florida Senate calls upon state
52 and local government leaders, communities within the state, and
53 all of the people of Florida to observe Fair Housing Month
54 through activities and ceremonies that celebrate historical and
55 future efforts to ensure fair and equal access to housing for
56 all people in this state.