

By Senator Joyner

18-03552-11

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 2011 as "Fair Housing
3 Month" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Title VIII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1968
6 and the federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 prohibit discrimination
7 based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin,
8 disability, or familial status in the sale, rental, and
9 financing of dwellings, and

10 WHEREAS, in 1983, the Florida Legislature enacted the
11 Florida Fair Housing Act to ensure that discrimination in the
12 sale or rental of any dwelling because of race, color, national
13 origin, sex, or religion be prohibited, and subsequently amended
14 the Act in 1988 to include handicap and familial status, and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban
16 Development has proclaimed April as "National Fair Housing
17 Month," launching awareness campaigns to commemorate the
18 historic passage of this major legislation, increasing the
19 public's understanding of the act's many protections, and asking
20 communities to remember the past and celebrate 43 years of
21 housing successes to ensure justice and housing opportunities
22 for all, and

23 WHEREAS, according to a recent report from the federal Fair
24 Housing Administration, Florida continues to experience a
25 catastrophic rate of home foreclosures, and, as of February
26 2011, had the highest foreclosure rate in the nation, due in
27 part to predatory lending practices from 2004 through 2006, and

28 WHEREAS, at the height of this lending spree, Florida's
29 ethnic and racial minorities accounted for more than half of all

18-03552-11

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30 subprime mortgage loans, which means that ethnic and racial
31 minorities are losing their homes at much higher rates than
32 other Floridians, and

33 WHEREAS, the Florida Commission on Human Relations conducts
34 thorough and timely investigations of housing discrimination
35 complaints and, as a result of its investigative efforts, has
36 found that housing discrimination continues to exist in this
37 state, with disability, race, national origin, and familial
38 status constituting the top four areas of housing discrimination
39 cases closed in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and

40 WHEREAS, given the current housing crisis, the Florida
41 Commission on Human Relations is working harder than ever to
42 expand its outreach and educational efforts to ensure that
43 members of the housing industry are informed of fair housing
44 laws and their responsibilities, and to increase community
45 partnerships to ensure that Floridians are treated fairly and
46 are provided equal access to adequate and affordable housing
47 without discrimination, prejudice, or barriers, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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51 That April 2011 is recognized as "Fair Housing Month" in
52 Florida.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate calls upon
54 state and local governmental leaders, communities within the
55 state, and all Floridians to observe Fair Housing Month through
56 ceremonies and activities that celebrate past and future efforts
57 to ensure fair and equal access to housing for all people in
58 this state.