

By Senator Joyner

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2013 as "Fair Housing Month" in Florida.

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

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Fair Housing Act to ensure that the state make every effort to provide fair housing to all residents of this state and to prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of any dwelling because of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion, and the act was amended in 1988 to include the bases of disability and familial status, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has proclaimed April as "National Fair Housing Month," launching awareness campaigns to commemorate the historical passage of this landmark legislation, increasing the public's understanding of the many protections of the Civil Rights Act, and encouraging communities to remember and celebrate more than 45 years of housing successes, and

WHEREAS, because government and private entities may pursue certain practices that could have a disproportionately harmful effect on minorities protected by the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development recently issued regulations endorsing the use of "disparate impact" standards that will serve as a powerful tool in promoting fair housing opportunities, encouraging meaningful

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30 housing integration, and ensuring fair and equal treatment in  
31 the areas of mortgage lending, homeowners' insurance,  
32 exclusionary zoning, and admissions and redevelopment or  
33 demolition practices in public housing, and

34 WHEREAS, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, as  
35 statutorily authorized, conducts thorough and timely  
36 investigations of housing discrimination complaints and, as a  
37 result of its investigative efforts, has found that housing  
38 discrimination continues to exist in this state, with  
39 disability, race, national origin, familial status, and sex  
40 constituting the top five bases for housing discrimination  
41 during the 2011-2012 fiscal year, and

42 WHEREAS, the Florida Commission on Human Relations  
43 continually strives to reach out and educate members of the  
44 housing industry to ensure that they are informed of fair  
45 housing laws and their responsibilities in educating the public  
46 on housing rights and engaging in community partnerships so that  
47 all persons are afforded every opportunity to be treated fairly  
48 and are provided equal access to adequate and affordable housing  
49 without undue discrimination, prejudice, or barriers, NOW,  
50 THEREFORE,

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

53  
54 That we recognize April 2013 as "Fair Housing Month" in  
55 Florida and encourage state and local governmental leaders and  
56 communities and individuals throughout this state to observe  
57 Fair Housing Month through ceremonies and activities celebrating  
58 historical and future efforts to ensure fair and equal access to

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59 housing for all Floridians.