

By Senator Soto

14-01601A-13

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution designating April 18, 2013, as "Puerto
3 Rico Day" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was discovered by
6 Christopher Columbus in 1493 and ceded by Spain to the United
7 States in 1898, following the Spanish-American War, and

8 WHEREAS, with a population of nearly 4 million people, the
9 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico boasts an additional 2.7 million
10 Puerto Ricans who live in the continental United States,
11 approximately one-half of whom are second and third generation,
12 and

13 WHEREAS, more than 250,000 Puerto Ricans reside in the
14 State of Florida, predominantly in South Florida and the Orlando
15 area, and

16 WHEREAS, the people of Puerto Rico represent a diverse
17 cultural and racial mix, and

18 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth in
19 association with the United States, the commonwealth's chief of
20 state is the President of the United States of America, and the
21 head of Puerto Rico's government is an elected governor, and

22 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has one of the most dynamic economies
23 in the Caribbean region, with exports and imports nearly
24 doubling between fiscal years 1987 and 1997, and

25 WHEREAS, the tourism industry has traditionally been an
26 important source of income for Puerto Rico, with nearly 3.9
27 million tourists in 1993, providing 7 percent of the island's
28 Gross National Product and employing over 60,000 people, and

29 WHEREAS, the State of Florida promotes the enhancement of

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30 trade, business, cultural, and educational exchanges with the
31 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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35 That April 18, 2013, is designated as "Puerto Rico Day" in
36 the State of Florida.