

By Senator Garcia

38-01587-14

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Senate Resolution

A resolution encouraging the creation of a Turkish-Floridian Friendship Task Force to further the long-standing relationship between this state and the Republic of Turkey, build upon time-honored friendships, and promote the cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic ties between these two great nations.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey and the United States of America are long-standing allies, both dearly cherishing the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, and

WHEREAS, in its alliances with the United States, the Republic of Turkey has demonstrated its commitment to world peace and liberty as well as its secular and religious tolerance of others, and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey has the world's 15th largest economy and Europe's 6th largest economy, is a valued trading partner with this state, and is to be commended for its contributions to the global economy, and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey and this state have enjoyed a strong, vibrant, and mutually beneficial economic relationship with the prospect of further growth, and

WHEREAS, it is the custom of this state to welcome all who come, especially those who come in the interest of friendship and commerce, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this state to further cultivate the good relationship between Florida and the Republic of Turkey, and

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30 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Florida Legislature to  
31 recognize the contributions of our nation's allies and the value  
32 of maintaining beneficial relationships with allies, and

33 WHEREAS, the Turkic American Federation of Southeast (TAFS)  
34 is an independent, nonprofit organization that facilitates the  
35 mutually beneficial economic relationship between Florida and  
36 Turkey, and

37 WHEREAS, the organization's mission is to promote cultural,  
38 educational, academic, business, social, and arts relations and  
39 to organize events and activities to bring together the  
40 American, Turkish, Turkic, and Eurasian communities within the  
41 United States, and

42 WHEREAS, TAFS represents 12 member organizations in five  
43 states: Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and  
44 Alabama, and

45 WHEREAS, TAFS brings people together by hosting public  
46 programs and private events featuring leaders and experts with  
47 diverse views on a wide range of global and regional topics  
48 through task forces, executive forums, luncheons, conferences,  
49 studies, and leadership dialogue, and

50 WHEREAS, the bipartisan Turkish-Floridian Friendship Task  
51 Force was created in 2014, with Senator Rene Garcia and  
52 Representative Reggie Fullwood serving as the initial network  
53 coordinators, for the purpose of providing members of the  
54 Legislature with the opportunity to strengthen Florida-Turkish  
55 relations, address issues that concern Turkish Americans in  
56 Florida, promote cultural, educational, academic, political, and  
57 economic relations between the people of this state and the  
58 Turkish people, and coordinate hospitality and educational

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59 events and exchanges with TAFS, and

60 WHEREAS, a Turkish-Floridian Friendship Day reception will  
61 be held in Tallahassee on April 1, 2014, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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65 That we recognize the Turkic American Federation of  
66 Southeast for its efforts to promote intercultural understanding  
67 and goodwill, and the Turkish-Floridian Friendship Task Force  
68 for its cooperation with TAFS, and extend best wishes on the  
69 occasion of the Turkish-Floridian Friendship Day reception.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the creation of a  
71 Turkish-Floridian Friendship Task Force by members of this body  
72 and the House of Representatives to further the long-standing  
73 relations between this state and the Republic of Turkey, build  
74 upon time-honored friendships, and promote cultural,  
75 educational, academic, political, and economic relations between  
76 Florida and Turkey.