

By Senator Garcia

38-01155-15

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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 states.

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 Legislature to recognize
31 the contributions of our nation's allies and the value of
32 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, with Senator Rene Garcia and Representative Hazelle
52 Rogers serving as the network coordinators, was created for the
53 purpose of providing members of the Legislature with the
54 opportunity to strengthen Florida-Turkish relations, address
55 issues that concern Turkish Americans in Florida, promote
56 cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic
57 relations between the people of this state and the Turkish
58 people, and coordinate hospitality and educational events and

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59 exchanges with TAFS, and

60 WHEREAS, a Turkish-Floridian Friendship Day reception will
61 be held in Tallahassee on March 24, 2015, 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 for
68 its cooperation with TAFS, and we extend our 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 relationship between this state and the Republic of Turkey,
74 build upon time-honored friendships, and promote cultural,
75 educational, academic, political, and economic ties between
76 Florida and Turkey.