

By Senator Richter

23-02190-16

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 4, 2016, as "Golf Day at the Capitol" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the golf industry has become an integral part of the economy, identity, and quality of life in this state, with a direct economic impact of \$8.2 billion and an indirect economic impact of \$11 billion in 2013, and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the golf industry employed 132,000 Floridians and had an annual payroll of \$3.6 billion, and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to the PGA TOUR in Ponte Vedra Beach; the LPGA International in Daytona Beach; the PGA of America in Palm Beach Gardens; and The First Tee, the World Golf Hall of Fame, and the World Golf Foundation in St. Augustine, and

WHEREAS, Florida has more than 1,500 public and private golf course facilities, more than any other state, which generate annual revenues of \$4.1 billion, a sum greater than that of all other spectator sports in the state combined, and

WHEREAS, Florida will host 20 professional golf championships in 2016, including six PGA TOUR events, four Champions Tour events, two Web.com Tour events, and two LPGA Tour events, and

WHEREAS, two of golf's most prestigious events are played in Florida, THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach and the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship, played since 2007 at Trump National Doral in Miami, and

WHEREAS, Florida's golf industry is a top contributor to charitable organizations, with donations totaling more than \$383.4 million annually from numerous golf outings and events, as well as the charitable giving associated with professional

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33 golf tournaments, and

34 WHEREAS, beneficiaries of these charity events include the  
35 Nicklaus Children's Hospital, The First Tee Miami, the Make-A-  
36 Wish Foundation, the Baptist Children's Hospital, the Children's  
37 Miracle Network Hospitals, the Nicklaus Children's Health Care  
38 Foundation, The First Tee National School Program, the Boy  
39 Scouts of America, the American Red Cross, the Alzheimer's  
40 Support Network, the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast,  
41 and many others, and

42 WHEREAS, Florida's golf course owners and superintendents  
43 have continued to be stewards of the environment by using best  
44 practices in hazardous waste management, wetland and stormwater  
45 protection, and wastewater minimization, and

46 WHEREAS, the game of golf assists in the development of  
47 Florida's youth through the introduction of life skills and  
48 experiences, management of emotions, goal setting, conflict  
49 resolution, and improving relationships with family and  
50 community, and

51 WHEREAS, the concentration of golf activity in Florida in  
52 2016 will bring an unprecedented level of worldwide exposure to  
53 this state, and

54 WHEREAS, golf is a tremendous asset to this state,  
55 affecting its quality of life and tourism and strengthening the  
56 state's position as a great place to live and do business, and

57 WHEREAS, the golf industry has a significant impact on the  
58 state's economy, provides recreation and wellness opportunities  
59 for residents of all ages, fosters strong character development  
60 for Florida's youth, contributes significantly to charitable  
61 organizations, and is intrinsic to the brand of the Sunshine

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62 State, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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66 That February 4, 2016, is recognized as "Golf Day at the  
67 Capitol."

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
69 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the affiliated  
70 organizations of the Golf Florida Alliance as a tangible token  
71 of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.