

By Senator Garcia

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the long-standing relationship between this state and the Republic of Turkey, and encouraging initiatives that build upon this time-honored friendship to promote the academic, cultural, economic, educational, and political ties between Florida and the Republic of Turkey.

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

WHEREAS, in its alliances with the United States, the Republic of Turkey has demonstrated its commitment to liberty and world peace 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

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

WHEREAS, the Turkic American Federation of Southeast (TAFS)

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33 is an independent, nonprofit organization that facilitates the
34 mutually beneficial economic relationship between Florida and
35 the Republic of Turkey, and

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

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

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

49 WHEREAS, a Turkish-Floridian Friendship Day reception will
50 be held in Tallahassee on February 9, 2016, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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54 That we recognize the Turkic American Federation of
55 Southeast for its efforts to promote intercultural understanding
56 and goodwill, and we extend our best wishes on the occasion of
57 the Turkish-Floridian Friendship Day reception.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the continuing
59 work of the Turkic American Federation of Southeast to promote
60 and foster goodwill between this state and the Republic of
61 Turkey, build upon time-honored friendships, and promote

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62 mutually beneficial academic, cultural, economic, educational,
63 and political ties.