

By Senator Torres

15-01999-17

20171642\_\_

1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 2, 2017, as "Puerto  
3 Ricans' U.S. Citizenship Day" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, on March 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed  
6 the Jones-Shafroth Act, more commonly known as the Jones Act,  
7 granting United States citizenship to the citizens of Puerto  
8 Rico, and

9 WHEREAS, United States policymakers favored granting  
10 citizenship to Puerto Ricans in order to support United States  
11 permanence in Puerto Rico, to strengthen the governance of the  
12 territory, and to forge a stronger bond with Puerto Rico, and

13 WHEREAS, the Jones Act of 1917, which conferred naturalized  
14 citizenship, was replaced by the Nationality Act of 1940, which  
15 extended the rule of jus soli, or birthright citizenship, to  
16 Puerto Rico, thereby cementing United States citizenship as  
17 permanent and irreversible for island-born Puerto Ricans and  
18 their children for generations to come, and

19 WHEREAS, after a century of United States citizenship, the  
20 main goal of the Jones Act to augment the bond with the people  
21 of Puerto Rico has clearly been achieved, as over 5 million  
22 Puerto Ricans now reside stateside, and of those, 1 million  
23 reside in this state, and

24 WHEREAS, as residents of Florida, Puerto Ricans actively  
25 participate in public affairs, make significant cultural,  
26 political, and social contributions, and enhance the well-being  
27 of the state and all its residents, and

28 WHEREAS, March 2, 2017, marks the 100th anniversary of the  
29 Jones-Shafroth Act and the granting of United States citizenship

15-01999-17

20171642\_\_

30 to the people of Puerto Rico, NOW, THEREFORE,

31

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

33

34 That March 2, 2017, is recognized as "Puerto Ricans' U.S.

35 Citizenship Day" in Florida.