

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

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BILL: SR 398

INTRODUCER: Senators Bracy and Campbell

SUBJECT: Taiwan

DATE: January 12, 2018

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Swift	McKay	CM	<b>Favorable</b>
2.			RC	

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**I. Summary:**

SR 398 recognizes the commercial and cultural relationship between the United States and Taiwan. This resolution also marks the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act on April 10, 2018.

Legislative resolutions have no force of law and are not subject to the approval or veto powers of the Governor.

**II. Present Situation:**

Taiwan is located roughly 100 miles off of the southeastern China coast. The capital of Taiwan is Taipei, which is located on the northern side of Taiwan Island.<sup>1</sup> The population of Taiwan is roughly 23.5 million. According to the 2010 census, Florida is one of the top ten states with the largest Taiwanese population.<sup>2</sup> The Taiwanese population in Florida grew considerably from 2,403 in 2000 to 4,218 in 2010.<sup>3</sup>

While the United States and Taiwan have a strong economic and cultural relationship, it is an unofficial relationship. Since the 1979 U.S. – PRC Joint Communique, the United States has recognized Beijing as the capital of China and no longer recognized Taipei. It is official U.S. policy that Taiwan is part of China, and not an independent state. The Joint Communique detailed that the United States would continue to have unofficial diplomatic relations with Taiwan.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Britannica, *Taiwan*, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Taiwan#ref30004> (last visited January 12, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tw.html> (last visited January 12, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> Asia Matters for America, *Taiwan Matters for America*, <http://asiamattersforamerica.org/taiwan/data/population> (last visited January 12, 2018).

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of State, *U.S. Relations with Taiwan*, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35855.htm> (last visited January 10, 2018).

The United States is Taiwan's second largest trading partner. The U.S. maintains an economic relationship with Taiwan through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).<sup>5</sup> Taiwan is Florida's seventh largest trading partner. The U.S. supports Taiwan's participation in international organizations that do not require statehood for membership.<sup>6</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SR 398 recognizes the commercial and cultural relationship between the United States and Taiwan. This resolution also marks the 39th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act on April 10, 2018.

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### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

#### **C. Government Sector Impact:**

None.

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State, *U.S. Relations with Taiwan*, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35855.htm> (last visited January 10, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of State, *U.S. Relations with Taiwan*, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35855.htm> (last visited January 10, 2018).

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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