

HR 8045

2018

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing February 25, 2018, as "St.  
3 Johns River State College Day" and commemorating the  
4 college's 60th anniversary.

5  
6 WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College, formerly known as  
7 St. Johns River Junior College and St. Johns River Community  
8 College, was founded in 1958 to serve the counties of Clay,  
9 Putnam, and St. Johns, and

10 WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College's first campus was  
11 located in Palatka and officially opened for organizational  
12 purposes on February 25, 1958, and

13 WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College served 191 students  
14 in its first semester and has evolved into a multi-campus  
15 institution that currently serves approximately 11,000 students  
16 and offers Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science,  
17 Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science degrees, as well as  
18 a variety of certificate and workforce training programs, and

19 WHEREAS, upon its merger with Collier-Blocker Junior  
20 College in 1964, St. Johns River State College became a fully  
21 integrated public junior college serving all students in Clay,  
22 Putnam, and St. Johns counties, and

23 WHEREAS, in 1976, the Florida School of the Arts, the first  
24 state-supported professional arts school, began full operation

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25 | as part of St. Johns River State College with a charter class of  
26 | 51 students, and

27 |       WHEREAS, in 1977, St. Johns River State College opened its  
28 | first branch campus in Orange Park and, in 1986, opened its  
29 | second branch campus in St. Augustine, and

30 |       WHEREAS, in 1997, Senate Bill 1688 authorized all community  
31 | colleges to offer workforce development programs, opening the  
32 | door for St. Johns River State College to become a fully  
33 | comprehensive community college, and

34 |       WHEREAS, in 2004, the Thrasher-Horne Center opened on the  
35 | Orange Park campus to host art exhibits, theatrical  
36 | performances, community events, and business conferences, and

37 |       WHEREAS, in 2010, St. Johns River State College was granted  
38 | approval to offer its first baccalaureate degrees by the State  
39 | Board of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and  
40 | Schools Commission on Colleges, moving the college from a Level  
41 | I to a Level II accredited institution, and changed its name to  
42 | St. Johns River State College to better reflect its progression,  
43 | and

44 |       WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College continues its  
45 | comprehensive and educational role by expanding its offerings in  
46 | academic, workforce development, and adult education areas, as  
47 | well as community education to better serve area residents, NOW,  
48 | THEREFORE,

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50 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
51 Florida:

52

53 That February 25, 2018, is recognized as "St. Johns River  
54 State College Day," and the college is celebrated for its 60th  
55 anniversary as an outstanding institution of higher education  
56 focused on student success.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
58 presented to Joe H. Pickens, J.D., president of St. Johns River  
59 State College, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed  
60 herein.