

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.)

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

BILL: SR 1438

INTRODUCER: Senator Torres

SUBJECT: Taiwan

DATE: March 22, 2019

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Reeve</u>	<u>McKay</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SR 1438 recognizes the economic and cultural ties between the United States and Taiwan and reaffirms Florida's commitment to the two countries' diplomatic relationship, one based on shared values of freedom, democracy, and the protection of human rights.

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

II. Present Situation:

Taiwan, formally the Republic of China, is located off the southeastern coast of China. The population of Taiwan is roughly 23.5 million.¹ As of 2017, there were more than 8,000 Taiwanese citizens and 40,000 Americans of Taiwanese descent residing in Florida.²

April 10, 2019, marks the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (the Act), which outlined the unofficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan. The US does not recognize Taiwan as an independent state and instead considers it a part of China; however, the US and Taiwan have maintained strong cultural and economic ties since the creation of the Act in 1979. Taiwan is the United States' 11th largest trading partner, and the US is Taiwan's second largest trading partner. The Trade and Investment Framework Agreement for East Asia, the conditions under which Taiwan trades with the United States, has helped globalize the Taiwanese economy and solidify Taiwan as a key East Asian trade and security ally.³

¹ Republic of China Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *About Taiwan*, available at <https://www.taiwan.gov.tw/> (last visited March 22, 2019).

² Migration Policy Institute, *State Immigration Data Profile: Florida* (2017), available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/taiwanese-immigrants-united-states> (last visited March 22, 2019).

³ United States Department of State, *U.S. Relations with Taiwan Fact Sheet* (2018), available at <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35855.htm> (last visited March 22, 2019).

Taiwan and the United States both hold memberships in a number of the same international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. Taiwan also participates as an observer in several international organizations that promote ideals with which the United States aligns, such as the World Health Assembly and the International Criminal Policy Organization (known as INTERPOL).

Florida in particular enjoys close commercial and cultural relationships with Taiwan. Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwan's first female president, flew into Miami and met with Senator Marco Rubio on the first stop of her inaugural visit.⁴ Taiwan is Florida's seventh largest export market in Asia, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services promotes their "Fresh From Florida" brand of products in retail establishments there.⁵ Sisterhood relationships exist between Florida and Taiwan, Miami-Dade County and New Taipei City (formerly Taipei County), and some Florida cities and their Taiwanese counterparts.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The resolution recognizes the relationship and shared interests between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States and supports the further strengthening of the ties between Florida and Taiwan. A copy of the resolution will be presented to President Tsai In-wen of Taiwan as a token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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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.

⁴ Office of Senator Marco Rubio, *Rubio Welcomes Taiwanese President to Miami* (June 24, 2016), <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=5061149F-F0E3-4FF5-B4AC-C6E2AD09B785> (last visited March 22, 2019).

⁵ *New Partnership to Expand 'Fresh From Florida' Footprint In Taiwan*, Growing Produce (Nov. 26, 2014), <https://www.growingproduce.com/vegetables/new-partnership-to-expand-fresh-from-florida-footprint-in-taiwan/> (last visited March 22, 2019).

⁶ Enterprise Florida, *Directory of Consulates, Bi-National Chambers and Sister Cities in Florida* (2017), available at https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Directory_of_Consulates_Chambers_and_Sister_Cities_in_Florida.pdf (last visited March 22, 2019).

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

None.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.