

By Senator Torres

15-01465A-19

20191706\_\_

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 2, 2019, as "Puerto Ricans' United States Citizenship Day" in Florida.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, after a century of United States citizenship, the main goal of the Jones Act to augment the bond with the people of Puerto Rico has clearly been achieved, as more than 5 million Puerto Ricans now reside stateside, and of those, 1 million reside in the State of Florida, and

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

WHEREAS, March 2, 2019, marks the 102nd anniversary of the Jones-Shafroth Act and the granting of United States citizenship

15-01465A-19

20191706\_\_

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, 2019, is recognized as "Puerto Ricans' United  
35 States Citizenship Day" in Florida.