

By Senator Rodriguez

37-01926A-19

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 24, 2019, as "Venezuela Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, United Nations' research shows that, since 2014, an estimated 3 million Venezuelan people, which is approximately 10 percent of the country's population, have fled Venezuela, and a 2018 study by the University of Miami found that more than 200,000 Venezuelans have made Florida their home, and

WHEREAS, the number of Venezuelan students in Miami-Dade County public schools has soared in recent years, almost doubling to 9,873 from August 2015 to August 2017, and, as of the latter date, Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School had 950 Venezuelan students out of a total student body of approximately 2,500, and

WHEREAS, a 2013 Pew Research Center survey showed that more than half of Venezuelans in the United States who were 25 years of age or older held at least a bachelor's degree, and

WHEREAS, Central Florida is now home to 140,000 Venezuelan residents, approximately 38,000 of whom are United States citizens, a number that has grown over the last year as the South American nation has spiraled into political and economic upheaval, and

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, Venezuelans accounted for 10,221 asylum applications filed between October 2015 and June 2016, which was up from 3,810 filed during the same period the year before, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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That April 24, 2019, is recognized as "Venezuela Day" in  
Florida.