

By Senator Harrell

25-02227-21

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 15, 2021, as
3 "Oceans Day" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, coastal and ocean resources are vital to Florida's
6 quality of life and economic vitality, and

7 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Florida to
8 conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty, in
9 accordance with Section 7, Article II of the State Constitution,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, this state is the only state in the contiguous
12 United States which is bordered on three sides by the sea, with
13 more than 8,000 miles of continuous tidal shoreline, and

14 WHEREAS, more than 75 percent of Florida's residents live
15 within its coastal counties, and

16 WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate the protection,
17 enhancement, and management of our state's ocean resources so
18 that future generations will enjoy healthy ocean and coastal
19 resources, and

20 WHEREAS, oceans provide the basis for a significant part of
21 this state's economic, ecological, and social well-being, and

22 WHEREAS, coastal counties generated more than \$797 billion
23 of economic value in Florida's economy in 2018, more than three-
24 quarters of the state's \$1 trillion economy, and

25 WHEREAS, more than a million jobs in Florida were directly
26 or indirectly created by activities using ocean resources, with
27 the ocean economy contributing \$73.9 billion to the state's
28 economy in 2018, and

29 WHEREAS, Florida's "blue economy" and ocean-related

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30 industries are key drivers of economic activity and are critical
31 to Florida's economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic,
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the Florida Ocean Alliance is a nonprofit,
34 nonpartisan, public-private partnership of ocean-related
35 interests which promotes awareness and understanding of the
36 ocean's importance to the ecology and economy of Florida and its
37 neighbors, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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41 That March 15, 2021, is recognized as "Oceans Day" in
42 Florida, in recognition of the economic and environmental
43 importance of Florida's ocean resources.