

By Senator Rodriguez

39-02156-22

20221960__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the friendship between
Florida and Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS, the people of Puerto Rico and Florida have common
historical and political ties, and

WHEREAS, Juan Ponce de León served as the first Governor of
Puerto Rico and is credited with discovering Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Spanish province of Florida was linked by
Spanish rule to the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico at the time
of its cession to the United States in 1819, and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico became part of the United States under
the Treaty of Paris in 1898 following the Spanish-American War,
and

WHEREAS, the Jones Act of 1917, which conferred naturalized
citizenship on residents of Puerto Rico, 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, with more than 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

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau,
there were more than 1.1 million people of Puerto Rican heritage
residing in Florida in 2018, and

WHEREAS, as residents of Florida, Puerto Ricans actively
participate in public affairs, make significant cultural,

39-02156-22

20221960__

30 political, and social contributions, and enhance the well-being
31 of this state and its residents, and

32 WHEREAS, the governments of Puerto Rico and Florida have a
33 strong friendship, as demonstrated in 2017 when Florida helped
34 Puerto Rico rebuild after Hurricane Maria and, again, in 2018
35 when Puerto Rico reciprocated by sending aid to Florida after
36 Hurricane Michael, and

37 WHEREAS, these common ties and this strong friendship bind
38 and unite the State of Florida and the Commonwealth of Puerto
39 Rico and their residents, NOW, THEREFORE,

40

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

42

43 That the friendship between the State of Florida and the
44 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and their residents is recognized,
45 as is the hope that this friendship may continue to prosper.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the many contributions of
47 Puerto Ricans to our state are acknowledged and appreciated.