

By Senator Avila

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 27, 2024, as
"Dominican-American Heritage Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the island of Hispaniola is home to two countries,
with Haiti on the west and the Dominican Republic on the east,
and

WHEREAS, the people of the Dominican Republic were under
Haitian rule for 22 years before the Dominican War of
Independence set them free in 1844, and

WHEREAS, the Dominican Republic was re-colonized by Spain
between 1861 and 1865, and

WHEREAS, with the help of Haiti, the Dominican Republic
gained its freedom from Spain in 1865, when black Dominican
rebels, who feared that Spain would reestablish slavery, fought
to overthrow Spanish rule in the Dominican Restoration War, and

WHEREAS, migration from the Dominican Republic to the
United States began in the 1960s in the wake of economic and
political turbulence that occurred after dictator Rafael
Trujillo was killed by rebels, and

WHEREAS, since 1990, the immigrant population from the
Dominican Republic residing in the United States has been larger
than other immigrant populations from the Caribbean, with the
exception of immigrants from Cuba, and

WHEREAS, Florida is the third of five states with the
largest concentration of Dominican Americans, with approximately
12 percent of Dominican Americans residing in this state, and

WHEREAS, Dominican Americans have made significant
contributions to the United States in several fields, including

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30 government, finance, education, sports, fashion, and the arts
31 and sciences, and continue to enrich the diversity of this state
32 by sharing their unique accomplishments, traditions, culture,
33 and cuisine, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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37 That February 27, 2024, is recognized as "Dominican-
38 American Heritage Day" in Florida to celebrate Dominican
39 Republic Independence Day and the invaluable economic, social,
40 and cultural contributions of Dominican Americans throughout
41 this state.