

HR 9091

2007

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 11, 2007, as "Florida  
3 Aquarium Day" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, since its opening on March 31, 1995, the Florida  
6 Aquarium has welcomed over 7 million visitors and annually  
7 serves more than 100,000 school children, many of them entering  
8 an aquarium facility for the first time, and

9 WHEREAS, the Florida Aquarium annually educates more than  
10 1,000 teachers from across the state in the marine sciences  
11 through continuing education courses that meet the Sunshine  
12 State Standards, and

13 WHEREAS, the Florida Aquarium houses 35 permanent exhibits  
14 in 4 main galleries, providing a visual and hands-on overview of  
15 Florida's ecological system, and contains more than 20,000  
16 aquatic plants and animals representing more than 1,800 species,  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Florida Aquarium is home to successful Florida  
19 Otter and Sea Turtle rescue and rehabilitation programs and  
20 offers guest diving opportunities that allow divers to  
21 experience the beauty of Florida's bays and oceans within the  
22 safety, comfort, and security of the aquarium's tanks, and

23 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Florida Aquarium, in partnership with  
24 the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, installed the Tampa Bay Devil Rays  
25 Touch Tank beyond the centerfield wall at Tropicana Field in St.  
26 Petersburg and later expanded and improved the aquarium's Lobby  
27 Touch Tank, and

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28 WHEREAS, the Florida Aquarium's exhibits continue to grow  
29 and include Aquariumania! Crazy About Fish Tanks, an exhibit  
30 featuring a variety of tropical and freshwater fish tanks;  
31 Explore A Shore, an exciting water park; Fantasy Island, an  
32 outdoor classroom; and Invaders! Florida's Most Unwanted  
33 Species, an interactive exhibit concerning the dangers of  
34 invasive species, and

35 WHEREAS, the Penguin Promenade, introduced in 2006, has  
36 offered visitors to the Florida Aquarium a direct encounter with  
37 two African black-footed penguins, NOW, THEREFORE,

38

39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
40 Florida:

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42 That the House of Representatives recognizes the Florida  
43 Aquarium for its dedication to preserving, protecting, and  
44 educating the public about Florida's natural habitats and  
45 ecological systems and recognizes April 11, 2007, as "Florida  
46 Aquarium Day" in Florida.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
48 presented to the Florida Aquarium as a tangible token of the  
49 sentiments expressed herein.