

By Senator Thompson

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing October 2015 as
3 "International Creole Month" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Creole cultures and languages are present
6 throughout the world, and are especially prevalent in the
7 Caribbean, Louisiana, and Florida, and

8 WHEREAS, as the fruit of migrations and population
9 mingling, the Creole language is an incredibly complex and
10 diverse vernacular, and

11 WHEREAS, Creole languages started out as pidgins, mixed
12 languages developed between two peoples who do not share a
13 language but who interact regularly, and

14 WHEREAS, over time, these pidgins developed into a stable
15 Creole language, such as Haitian Creole, which emerged in the
16 late 17th and early 18th centuries from the interactions of
17 French settlers and African slaves, and

18 WHEREAS, since 1500, approximately 100 Creole languages
19 have arisen due to the Age of Discovery and the Atlantic slave
20 trade, with the largest number of speakers, nearly 10 million,
21 speaking Haitian Creole, and

22 WHEREAS, in 1981, a consortium of French Creole linguists
23 from the Caribbean and Indian Ocean regions formed Bannzil
24 Kreyol, an organization devoted specifically to the study and
25 promotion of French Creole languages, and

26 WHEREAS, the first "International Bannzil Kreyol Day" took
27 place on October 28, 1983, evolving into an annual celebration
28 of Creole heritage in all Creole countries across the globe, and

29 WHEREAS, Haitian Creole became an official language of the

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30 Republic of Haiti in 1987 and is the first language of 95
31 percent of Haitians, and

32 WHEREAS, Haitian Creole, as well as other ethnic Creole
33 traditions, is an integral part of the fabric of the South
34 Florida community, and

35 WHEREAS, understanding the native Creole cultures and
36 languages is vital to increasing cultural awareness and identity
37 for many Floridians and peoples throughout the world, and

38 WHEREAS, many invaluable figures throughout history
39 embraced their Creole heritage, including artist Edgar Degas,
40 musicians Fats Domino and Louis Armstrong, naturalist and
41 painter John James Audubon, boxer Joe Brown, and Jean Baptiste
42 Point du Sable, founder of the City of Chicago, and

43 WHEREAS, the preservation of this historic and diverse
44 dialect is of great concern to people of various nationalities
45 throughout the world, and initiatives to promote, preserve, and
46 celebrate Creole are local field work as much as governmental
47 policy, and

48 WHEREAS, the Creole heritage encompasses a colorful culture
49 of music, such as a "shak-shak" band and dance, including
50 genteel and graceful quadrille dancers who perform dainty steps
51 and polite bows to traditional drums, violins, and locally made
52 seed-pod maracas, and

53 WHEREAS, Creole cuisine exemplifies tradition and
54 innovation with such dishes as fire-roasted breadfruit, conch in
55 Creole spices, and green fig and saltfish, and

56 WHEREAS, communities reach deep into their past to remember
57 and honor authentic food and drink, arts and crafts,
58 entertainment, and activities, and

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59 WHEREAS, the celebration of the Creole legacy promotes
60 tolerance, fraternity, and friendship between those of Creole
61 descent and the rest of humankind, NOW, THEREFORE,
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63 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:
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65 That October 2015 is recognized as "International Creole
66 Month" in Florida and that all Floridians are encouraged to
67 observe the occasion with celebration and cultural
68 understanding.