By Senator Harrell

25-02227-21 20211910__

Senate Resolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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