

Chapter No. 2175

11/SS26/R1256.1

JN ICC/TA

***SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 600***

Originated in Senate

Jerald H. Guzman

Secretary

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 600

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SALUTING THE CENTENNIAL (100TH) ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD) AND DESIGNATING MARCH 8, 2011, AS "WOMEN'S DAY IN MISSISSIPPI."

WHEREAS, International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In some countries, like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, International Women's Day is a national holiday. The first International Women's Day was run in 1911. The International Women's Day Global Centenary is in 2011; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900s, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies. Great unrest and critical debate was occurring among women. Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights; and

WHEREAS, following an International Conference of Working Women at Copenhagen in 1911, International Women's Day (IWD) was honored the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. More than one million women and men attended IWD rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained to hold public office and end discrimination. Less than a week later, on March 25, the tragic "Triangle Fire" in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This disastrous event drew

significant attention to working conditions and labor legislation in the United States that became a focus of subsequent International Women's Day events; and

WHEREAS, on the last Sunday of February 1917, Russian women began a strike for "bread and peace" in response to the death of over two million Russian soldiers in war; and

WHEREAS, since its birth in the socialist movement, International Women's Day has grown to become a global day of recognition and celebration across developed and developing countries alike. For many years the United Nations has held an annual IWD conference to coordinate international efforts for women's rights and participation in social, political and economic processes. 1975 was designated as International Women's Year by the United Nations. Women's organizations and governments around the world have also observed IWD annually on March 8 by holding large-scale events that honor women's advancement and the continued vigilance and action required to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day is now an official holiday in China, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The tradition sees men honoring their mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues, etc., with flowers and small gifts. In some countries IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers. Great improvements have been made. We have female astronauts and prime ministers, schoolgirls are welcomed into universities, women can work and have a family, and women have real choices. The tone and nature of IWD has, for the past few years, moved from being a reminder about the negatives to a celebration of the positives. Annually on March 8, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize and salute the Centennial (100th) Anniversary of International Women's Day (IWD) and designate March 8, 2011, as

"Women's Day in Mississippi"

a day dedicated exclusively to the celebration of the women of Mississippi.

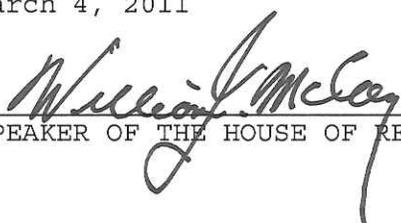
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to the Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women for distribution at appropriate events and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 1, 2011



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 4, 2011



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES