

2013-J758

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing and celebrating the week of March 10-16, 2013, as "Sunshine Week"

WHEREAS, The pillars of democracy include government transparency, accessibility and accountability, resulting in an informed citizenry; and

WHEREAS, "Sunshine Week" is a national initiative about the importance of open government and freedom of information; and

WHEREAS, "Sunshine Week" seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body understands and appreciates the value of access to information it needs to make informed decisions, and the corresponding importance of access to government information by the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, The free flow of information from the government to the people instills trust and confidence in our democracy, and ensures that our government is accessible, accountable and open; and

WHEREAS, We must continue to educate and empower the public regarding their right to access government documents, information and meetings; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body has passed legislation in the past year which requires certain records discussed at open meetings be made available to the public prior to such meetings; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body will hold joint budget conference committees in order to provide more openness and transparency to the budget process; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide, during the week of March 10-16, 2013, countless citizens and others interested in open government will celebrate "Sunshine Week"; and

WHEREAS, "Sunshine Week" is a non-partisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and every group in between, and its participants include print, broadcast, online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and celebrate the week of March 10-16, 2013, as "Sunshine Week".