

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1253

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to commend the State of Arizona and its elected officials as it approaches its centennial celebration.

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1912, after nearly forty-nine years as a United States territory and thousands of years as a sacred home to indigenous peoples, Arizona became the 48th state and the last of the contiguous states to enter the Union of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, in order to commemorate its centennial and to properly celebrate the history of its people, the Arizona Centennial Commission was established to develop a comprehensive plan to specially mark such an auspicious occasion; and

WHEREAS, now known around the world as the scenic and beautiful Grand Canyon State, Arizona's modern history predates that of Tennessee, having developed a rich and storied history since it was explored by Europeans in the 1500s, first by Spanish Franciscan Marcos de Niza and later by Spanish explorer Coronado; and

WHEREAS, the home of the Navajo Nation, the Chiricahua, and the Hopi as well as many other indigenous peoples, Arizona has also been the home of numerous outstanding American public servants, including Sandra Day O'Connor, Barry Goldwater, Morris Udall, Bruce Babbitt, John McCain, Janet Napolitano, and William Rehnquist; and

WHEREAS, agriculture and tourism are both very important industries to Tennessee and Arizona, where their economic strength has traditionally been based on agriculture, tourism and mining, with the state accounting for over two-thirds of the nation's annual copper production; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arizona and the good people of Tennessee have long shared

political philosophies and common concerns, both standing ready to meet any challenge to ensure the safety of its people and the well-being of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, unlawful immigration is of major concern to all people of the United States, as it threatens the security and safety of all citizens and legal residents and has become a huge financial burden on state and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has taken steps to address the problem of unlawful immigration following decades of inadequate action and enforcement by the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2010, the Arizona State Legislature passed the "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act," which Governor Jan Brewer signed into law on April 23, 2010, calling the measure "another step forward in protecting the State of Arizona"; and

WHEREAS, the law, as amended, makes unlawful immigration a state crime under Arizona law, enforceable by any Arizona law enforcement official, and further provides sanctions against aiding and assisting unlawful immigration through employment, harboring illegal aliens, and/or transporting unlawful immigrants across the United States border; and

WHEREAS, the new Arizona law also provides for sanctions against employers who hire immigrants who are not legally in the United States, requiring employers to keep proof of employment verification, and requires legal immigrants to have completed and possess all Federally-required registration documents; and

WHEREAS, the law, as amended, further provides that immigration enforcement by Arizona police agencies shall be implemented in a manner consistent with Federal laws regulating immigration, thus protecting the civil rights of all persons and respecting the privileges and immunities of United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, the law, as amended, also provides that law enforcement officials cannot consider race, color, or national origin when implementing the provisions of the law, except as permitted by the United States or Arizona Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Arizona state and local law enforcement officials will now be required to reasonably attempt to determine the immigration status of a person: but only while in the

process of a lawful stop, detention, or arrest during the enforcement of any other Arizona law or ordinance of a county, city or town; and

WHEREAS, in taking this action, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Arizona has become the first state to enact a statute that creates a state trespassing violation for unlawful presence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body hereby honors and commends the State of Arizona and its government officials on the upcoming commemoration of Arizona's Centennial and that this body also salutes the initiative and the courage of the Arizona State Legislature and Governor Jan Brewer in their actions to protect their citizens and the borders of our great nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Brewer and to each chamber of the Arizona State Legislature.