**South Carolina General Assembly**

120th Session, 2013-2014

**S. 369**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Senate Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Lourie, Setzler and Cleary

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Companion/Similar bill(s): 3811

Introduced in the Senate on February 12, 2013

Adopted by the Senate on February 26, 2013

Summary: Autism Awareness Day

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/12/2013 Senate Introduced ([Senate Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\02-12-13.docx))

2/12/2013 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\02-12-13.docx))

2/21/2013 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\02-21-13.docx))

2/26/2013 Senate Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\02-26-13.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/12/2013](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\369_20130212.docx)

[2/21/2013](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\369_20130221.docx)

COMMITTEE REPORT

February 21, 2013

**S. 369**

Introduced by Senators Lourie, Setzler and Cleary

S. Printed 2/21/13--S.

Read the first time February 12, 2013.

**THE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL AFFAIRS**

To whom was referred a Senate Resolution (S. 369) to declare Tuesday, April 2, 2013, as “Autism Awareness Day” in the Palmetto State and to encourage all South Carolina citizens to support individuals and families affected, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

HARVEY S. PEELER, JR. for Committee.

**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013, AS “AUTISM AWARENESS DAY” IN THE PALMETTO STATE AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINA CITIZENS TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM.

Whereas, often accompanied by behavioral challenges, autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that inhibits a person’s ability to communicate and develop social relationships. Autism spectrum disorders are diagnosed in one in eighty‑eight children, affecting four times as many boys as girls in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the disorder is a national public health crisis, the cause and cure of which remain unknown; and

Whereas, an estimated three million individuals in the United States and tens of millions worldwide are affected by autism; and

Whereas, although a cure for autism has not been found, persons with autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential. Accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future growth and development of the affected individual; and

Whereas, many agencies and organizations, both private and public, have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism; and

Whereas, one such organization, Autism Speaks, will commemorate World Autism Awareness Day and Autism Awareness Month by sponsoring Light It Up Blue on April 2, 2013, during which day buildings and landmarks around the world will turn their lights blue in support of those affected by autism; and

Whereas, in 2012, more than three thousand iconic buildings and landmarks in more than fifty countries on six continents turned their lights blue in commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day, and the Senate encourages the people of the Palmetto State to follow suit during this year’s event as they are able; and

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate for the South Carolina Senate to pause in its deliberations to underline the complex disability that is autism and to express its support for individuals and families affected by this disorder. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, declare Tuesday, April 2, 2013, as “Autism Awareness Day” in the Palmetto State and encourage all South Carolina citizens to support individuals and families affected by autism.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Autism Speaks.

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