

SENATE RESOLUTION

8675

By Senators Liiias, Kuderer, McCoy, Keiser, Carlyle, Nelson, and Pedersen

1 WHEREAS, 2017 marks Finland's 100th year of independence and, in
2 honor of its centennial, the Nordic country of 5.5 million people has
3 organized the Finland 100, a year of celebration in which to remember
4 and look forward; and

5 WHEREAS, Finland's struggle to become independent and maintain
6 that independence is worthy of remembrance and recognition; and

7 WHEREAS, On December 6, 1917, Finland declared itself an
8 independent republic, repudiating its status as a semiautonomous
9 grand duchy of Russia whose major decisions had been subject to the
10 approval of the tsar; and

11 WHEREAS, Before coming under Russian rule in 1809, Finland was a
12 part of Sweden for over 600 years, but despite centuries of foreign
13 control, Finland developed and retained its own identity, language,
14 culture, and economy; and

15 WHEREAS, The Finnish people's desire to be free from an outside
16 empire's authority and to exercise self-determination may be
17 expressed by a phrase famous throughout Finland "Swedes we are not,
18 Russians we will not be, so let us be Finns"; and

19 WHEREAS, Finland's independence did not come easily or without
20 cost, as the struggle over the control of the government for the new
21 country led to a civil war in 1918 in which more than 37,000 Finns
22 died; and

1 WHEREAS, Following the civil war, Finland's emphasis on national
2 reconciliation helped strengthen the young republic, and the country
3 experienced rapid social and economic progress; and

4 WHEREAS, Finland twice defended itself against the Soviet Union
5 during World War II and, though ceding some lands in a peace
6 settlement, was able to maintain its independence; and

7 WHEREAS, In its 100 years of independence, Finland has
8 transformed itself into a technologically advanced nation,
9 universally recognized for its advanced social welfare policies;
10 outstanding educational system; high standard of living;
11 sophisticated economy; and enviable achievements in music, the arts,
12 and design; all of which have contributed to its repeated ranking
13 among the best places on earth to live;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
15 celebrate December 6, 2017, as the centennial of Finnish independence
16 and encourage all Washingtonians to join in celebrating the Finland
17 100.

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