

By: Senator J. English
By: Representatives Fite, Perry

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DRIVER'S LICENSES BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TAIWAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DRIVER'S LICENSES BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TAIWAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP.

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is a full-fledged democracy characterized by stability and social order, and Taiwan is the world's eighteenth largest economy, twenty-first largest exporter, twentieth largest importer, and the seventh largest holder of foreign exchange reserves with over \$408 billion; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan engage in robust bilateral trade, and the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading partner, and Taiwan is the eleventh largest trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on average, 580,000 people from Taiwan visit the United States each year and Taiwan's national carriers, China Airlines and EVA Air,



currently each have over 20 flights destined for the United States weekly, carrying more than 5,000 passengers daily for business, tourism, study, and observation, and visits to friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas's Department of Finance and Administration and Taiwan desire to streamline the exchange of valid noncommercial driver's licenses for an Arkansas applicant in Taiwan and an applicant from Taiwan living in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Finance and Administration and Taiwan has been prepared to acknowledge and permit a mutual recognition of driver's licenses; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Department of Finance and Administration requires adherence to state and federal privacy laws with regard to any information obtained when exchanging a driver's license, including the Driver's Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq., and personal information protection laws; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum seeking to promote free trade and economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, a bilateral free trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States and a regional free trade agreement that includes Taiwan would substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties, and other trade barriers and expand market opportunities for the State of Arkansas and the entire United States; and

WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a proposed trade agreement to enhance trade and investment among member countries and to promote innovation, economic growth and development, and the creation and retention of jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership represents a high-standard, ambitious, comprehensive, and forward-looking pathway for achieving an

eventual free trade area within the Asia-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership could result in an overall economic gain of nearly \$78 billion in social welfare for the United States and other member countries; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Arkansas will benefit from closer economic relationships with Taiwan by negotiating a free trade agreement and a bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and the United States and by supporting Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate encourages and supports the mutual recognition of driver's licenses between Taiwan and the State of Arkansas, closer economic ties between Taiwan and the United States, and Taiwan's membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to Mr. Steve C.C. Hsia, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston by the Secretary of the Senate.