

Senate Resolution 974

By: Senators Lucas of the 26th, Jackson of the 41st, Wicks of the 34th, Jones II of the 22nd, Mallow of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 19, 2026, as Pace Day at the Capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Pace Center for Girls was founded in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1985 by Vicki
3 Burke, who believed girls were entering the juvenile justice system as a consequence of
4 delinquent behavior often caused by trauma; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Pace Center for Girls provides free year-round middle and high school
6 academics, case management, counseling, and life skills development in a safe and
7 supportive environment that recognizes past trauma and builds upon each girl's individual
8 strengths; and
- 9 WHEREAS, this remarkable organization now serves 23 communities and more than 3,000
10 girls annually throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, giving them the opportunity
11 to secure a better future through education, counseling, training, and advocacy; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the Pace Center for Girls values and promotes the female perspective by
13 respecting its distinct needs, creating safe and gender-responsive environments, and
14 celebrating the female experience; and

15 WHEREAS, the center's nationally recognized early intervention model has proven to be
16 successful in curbing unemployment and lowering the rate at which girls return to the
17 juvenile justice system; and

18 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this extraordinary organization be
19 appropriately honored during this special time.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
21 recognize March 19, 2026, as Pace Day at the Capitol in honor of the Pace Center for Girls'
22 years of service on behalf of women and girls in need.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Pace Center
25 for Girls.