

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2014

SR 15

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

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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

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16 **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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



1 currently each have over 20 flights destined for the United States weekly,
2 carrying more than 5,000 passengers daily for business, tourism, study, and
3 observation, and visits to friends and family; and
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5 WHEREAS, Arkansas's Department of Finance and Administration and Taiwan
6 desire to streamline the exchange of valid noncommercial driver's licenses
7 for an Arkansas applicant in Taiwan and an applicant from Taiwan living in
8 the State of Arkansas; and
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10 WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of
11 Finance and Administration and Taiwan has been prepared to acknowledge and
12 permit a mutual recognition of driver's licenses; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of China
15 (Taiwan) and the Department of Finance and Administration requires adherence
16 to state and federal privacy laws with regard to any information obtained
17 when exchanging a driver's license, including the Driver's Privacy Protection
18 Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq., and personal information protection laws; and
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20 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization and the
21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum seeking to promote free trade and
22 economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and
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24 WHEREAS, a bilateral free trade agreement between Taiwan and the United
25 States and a regional free trade agreement that includes Taiwan would
26 substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties, and other trade
27 barriers and expand market opportunities for the State of Arkansas and the
28 entire United States; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a proposed trade agreement to
31 enhance trade and investment among member countries and to promote
32 innovation, economic growth and development, and the creation and retention
33 of jobs; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership represents a high-standard,
36 ambitious, comprehensive, and forward-looking pathway for achieving an

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

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

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

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

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

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