

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: February 17, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Designating "Law Day" and "Law Week"

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Rhea	Wilson	GO	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill designates May 1 as "Law Day." The days preceding May 1, beginning with Sunday and ending on the Saturday following May 1, are designated as "Law Week." Law Day and Law Week are designed to commemorate the role of law in society. Each year the Supreme Court, with the support of The Florida Bar, decides the theme that is celebrated.

This bill creates section 683.22, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

According to *The 1996 Law Week Planning Guide* published annually by The Florida Bar, Law Day, which is sponsored by the American Bar Association, is celebrated annually throughout the country on May 1, by joint resolution of the President and Congress. Law Day U.S.A. was conceived in 1957 by Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C. attorney who was then-president of the American Bar Association.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized Law Day by Presidential Proclamation in 1958. In 1961, by Congressional Joint Resolution, May 1 was set aside as a "special day of celebration of the American people in appreciation of their liberties," and as an occasion for the "rededication to the ideals of equality and justice under laws."

The Florida Bar joined the nationwide observance of May 1 as Law Day in 1958. That same year, then-Governor LeRoy Collins signed the first Law Day U.S.A. proclamation recognizing Law Day on behalf of the state of Florida. Florida Governors have followed the tradition of recognizing May 1 as Law Day since 1958. On November 9, 1995, Governor Lawton Chiles signed a proclamation declaring May 1, 1996, as Law Day in Florida. According to the

Governor's Office, it is expected that May 1, 1998, will be designated by proclamation as Law Day in Florida, though the request from The Florida Bar has not yet been received for this year.

Chapter 683, F.S., relates to legal holidays and special observances. Section 683.01, F.S., designates 21 legal holidays.¹ Other provisions in ss. 683.04-683.21, F.S., designate and explain the significance of various other legal holidays, some of which are listed in s. 683.01, F.S., and some of which are not. Additionally, legal holidays for specific counties in the state are listed in the chapter.² Section 683.01, F.S., does not authorize state offices to be closed, nor does it authorize the designated days as paid holidays for state employees. The nine holidays which are paid holidays for state employees are listed in s.110.117, F.S.³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill adds a new section to ch. 683, F.S., designating May 1 as "Law Day." The bill commemorates those days preceding May 1, starting with Sunday and ending with the Saturday following May 1, as "Law Week." If May 1 occurs on a Sunday, Law Week would begin on May 1 and end the following Saturday, i.e., May 6.

Each year, the Florida Supreme Court, with the support of The Florida Bar, determines and publicizes the theme to be celebrated during Law Week, under the terms of the bill. The Governor is authorized by the bill to issue a proclamation to celebrate the holiday and the events planned to celebrate Law Week.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

¹The legal holidays named in s. 683.01, F.S., are: (a) Sunday, the first day of each week; (b) New Year's Day, January 1; (c) Birthday of Martin Luther King, January 15; (d) Birthday of Robert E. Lee, January 19; (e) Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; (f) Susan B. Anthony's Birthday, February 15; (g) Washington's birthday, the third Monday in February; (h) Good Friday; (i) Pascua Florida Day, April 2; (j) Confederate Memorial Day, April 26; (k) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May; (l) Birthday of Jefferson Davis, June 3; (m) Flag Day, June 14; (n) Independence Day, July 4; (o) Labor Day, the first Monday in September; (p) Columbus Day and Farmers' Day, the second Monday in October; (q) Veterans' Day, November 11; (r) General Election Day; (s) Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November; (t) Christmas Day, December 25; and (u) Shrove Tuesday.

²For example, Gasparilla Day is a legal holiday in Hillsborough County and DeSoto Day is a legal holiday in Manatee County.

³The following holidays are paid holidays observed by all state branches and agencies: (a) New Year's Day; (b) Birthday of Martin Luther King, third Monday in January; (c) Memorial Day; (d) Independence Day; (e) Labor Day; (f) Veterans' Day, November 11; (g) Thanksgiving Day; (h) Friday after Thanksgiving; and (i) Christmas Day.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Supreme Court and Florida Bar may incur minimal costs associated with planning and publicizing the events designated annually for the celebration of Law Week.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.