

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.)

BILL: SB 1308

SPONSOR: Senator Kirkpatirck

SUBJECT: Daylight Saving Time

DATE: March 20, 2000

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Schmeling</u>	<u>Maclure</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>GO</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill exempts the state from participation in Daylight Saving Time.

II. Present Situation:

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. s. 260a) established a system of uniform (within each time zone) Daylight Saving Time throughout the United States and its possessions. Daylight Saving Time begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of April, and reverts to standard time at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. Exemptions to Daylight Saving Time are authorized under U.S. Code, Title 15, Section 260a, which provides that:

(1) any state that lies entirely within one time zone may by law exempt itself from the provisions of this subsection providing for the advancement of time, but only if that law provides that the entire state (including all political subdivisions thereof) shall observe the standard time otherwise applicable during that period, and (2) any state with parts thereof in more than one time zone may by law exempt either the entire state as provided in (1) or may exempt the entire area of the state lying within any time zone.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for overseeing the uniform observance of Daylight Saving Time in the United States as well as U.S. time zones.

An Internet exhibit, provided as a public service of the Institute for Dynamic Educational Advancement (IDEA) by WebExhibits, offers background on Daylight Saving Time:

Daylight saving has been used in the United States and in many European countries since World War I, when the system was adopted in order to conserve fuel needed to produce electric power. In 1918, in order to conserve resources for the war effort, Congress placed the country on Daylight Saving Time for the remainder of World War I. It was observed for seven months in 1918 and 1919. The law, however, proved so unpopular (mostly because

people rose earlier and went to bed earlier than we do today) that the law was later repealed in 1919 over President Wilson's veto. It was continued in a few states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island) and some cities (New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and others).

During World War II, the United States observed year-round Daylight Saving Time (from February 2, 1942, to September 30, 1945). From 1945 to 1966, there was no federal law governing Daylight Saving Time, so multiple time observances were created as states and localities were free to observe or not to observe Daylight Saving Time and could choose when it began and ended. By 1966, some 100 million Americans were observing Daylight Saving Time based on their own local laws and customs.¹

In 1975 DOT was charged with evaluating a plan of extending Daylight Saving Time into March, from the historical six-month Daylight Saving Time (May through October). DOT found that this change may realize modest overall benefits in the areas of energy conservation, overall traffic safety, and reduced violent crime. However, DOT also reported that these benefits were minimal and difficult to distinguish from seasonal variations and fluctuations in energy prices. Later, Congress asked the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) to evaluate the DOT report. NBS found no significant energy savings or differences in traffic fatalities.²

Currently, Florida law does not speak to the issue of Daylight Saving Time, but instead follows the Federal Uniform Time Act.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates an unnumbered statute declaring that the State of Florida and all of its political subdivisions are exempt from the observation of Daylight Saving Time and will observe standard time, pursuant to the Uniform Time Act of 1966, 15 U.S.C. s. 260a.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

¹ "Daylight Saving Time," <<http://www.webexhibits.com/daylightsaving/e.html>

² "Daylight Saving Time," CRS Report for Congress, 98-99 C.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

There could be cost to state and local government as well as the private sector to reprogram computers to eliminate the automatic changing of the clocks. However, this cost does not appear to be significant.

C. Government Sector Impact:

See above.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.