

By Representative Starks

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to children; creating s.
3 683.23, F.S.; designating the second Monday in
4 September of each year as "Florida Missing
5 Children's Day"; providing an effective date.

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7 WHEREAS, an estimated 800,000 children are reported
8 missing annually, and

9 WHEREAS, each year in the State of Florida,
10 approximately 61,000 children are reported missing, and

11 WHEREAS, children who are missing from home and not
12 living in a family environment may be exposed to sexual and
13 physical victimization, and

14 WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect the safety of our
15 children through education and prevention efforts, and

16 WHEREAS, there is a need to increase awareness and
17 understanding of the problem among our parents, citizens, and
18 law enforcement officers, and

19 WHEREAS, it is vital that we remember those children
20 who have been abducted, abused, and murdered, and persevere in
21 the search for those children who have not yet been found,
22 NOW, THEREFORE,

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24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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26 Section 1. Section 683.23, Florida Statutes, is
27 created to read:

28 683.23 Florida Missing Children's Day.--The second
29 Monday in September of each year is hereby designated as
30 "Florida Missing Children's Day" in remembrance of Florida's
31 past and present missing children and in recognition of our

1 state's continued efforts to protect the safety of children
2 through prevention, education, and community involvement.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
4 law.

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7 HOUSE SUMMARY

8 Designates the second Monday in September of each year as
9 "Florida Missing Children's Day."

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