A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Bay of Pigs and

Operation Mongoose Historical Site and Memorial

Study Group; establishing the Bay of Pigs and

Operation Mongoose Historical Site and Memorial

Study Group; providing for membership of the

study group; requiring the study group to

compile and submit a report; providing an

effective date.

WHEREAS, the main thrust of the Bay of Pigs invasion was launched on April 17, 1961, from bases in Nicaragua towards southern Cuba, and clandestine diversionary raids were launched towards northern Cuba from the Florida Keys, and

WHEREAS, the 2506 Assault Brigade invasion force was composed of approximately 1,500 Cuban expatriates, of which an estimated 300 were killed and 1,179 were captured by the Castro Forces, and

WHEREAS, after the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion, the United States commenced Operation Mongoose, which was a clandestine plan designed to subvert the Cuban government through sabotage, propaganda, and infiltration, and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that a memorial be erected to recognize the members of the 2506 Assault Brigade who were involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion, and Operation Mongoose participants, many of whom were killed and all of whom risked their lives in the attempts to free their homeland, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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Section 1. There is created the Bay of Pigs and
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    Operation Mongoose Historical Site and Memorial Study Group,
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    composed of one representative each from the John Pennekamp
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    Coral Reef State Park, the Division of State Lands of the
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    Department of Environmental Protection, the Molasses Reef
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    Marina Corporation, the Bay of Pigs and Operation Mongoose
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    Historical Site and Memorial Nonprofit Corporation, and a
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    fifth member to be agreed upon by all of the other four
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    members. The study group shall compile a report on an
    appropriate memorial to the cause and sacrifice of the
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    participants in the Bay of Pigs invasion and Operation
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    Mongoose. The report shall review and discuss any appropriate
    sites for the memorial, its development, ongoing maintenance,
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    and appropriate funding sources for these activities. The
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    report shall be submitted to the Governor and Cabinet, sitting
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    as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust
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    Fund, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
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    President of the Senate by December 31, 2000.
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           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.
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