39-1313-01

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 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 the 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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1 Section 1. There is created the Bay of Pigs and Operation Mongoose Historical Site and Memorial Study Group, 2 3 composed of one representative each from the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the Division of State Lands of the 4 5 Department of Environmental Protection, the Molasses Reef 6 Marina Corporation, the Bay of Pigs and Operation Mongoose 7 Historical Site and Memorial Nonprofit Corporation, and a fifth member to be agreed upon by all of the other four 8 9 members. The study group shall compile a report on an 10 appropriate memorial to the cause and sacrifice of the participants in the Bay of Pigs invasion and Operation 11 Mongoose. The report shall review and discuss any appropriate 12 sites for the memorial, its development, ongoing maintenance, 13 and appropriate funding sources for these activities. The 14 15 report shall be submitted to the Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust 16 17 Fund, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2001. 18 19 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001. 20 ********** 21 22 SENATE SUMMARY Creates the Bay of Pigs and Operation Mongoose Historical Site and Memorial Study Group; provides for membership of 23 24 the group; requires a report. 25 26 27 28 29 30 31