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An act relating to holidays; creating s.  
683.25, F.S.; designating December 15 as "Bill  
of Rights Day"; providing for a proclamation by  
the Governor to that effect; providing an  
effective date.

WHEREAS, the first 10 amendments to the United States  
Constitution are referred to as the Bill of Rights, which  
limit and define the powers of government, and

WHEREAS, several of the original states refused to  
ratify the Constitution without an express Bill of Rights, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights recognizes, affirms, and  
protects fundamental human and civil rights for which persons  
of all races have struggled for thousands of years, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights secures our freedom to  
speak, print, read, assemble, pray, petition the government,  
and keep and bear arms; protects us from unreasonable arrests  
and searches, excessive bail, double jeopardy, coerced  
confessions, and cruel and unusual punishment; and secures our  
rights to due process, jury trials, and counsel, and to  
present defense witnesses, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights protects our sovereign  
state from the excesses of the Federal Government, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights is integral to the American  
way of life, and America celebrates a variety of civic  
holidays which remind us of the special contributions and  
sacrifices made by our forefathers and leaders to preserve,  
protect, and extend our freedoms, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights energizes our military  
defense because members of the Armed Services of the United

1 States swear an oath to preserve and defend the United States  
2 Constitution, which includes the Bill of Rights, and when  
3 American military personnel fight and die for our country,  
4 they do so to protect our rights and freedoms under the Bill  
5 of Rights, and

6 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would help prevent the  
7 Bill of Rights from being otherwise forgotten, and since many  
8 Americans do not know the Bill of Rights, this special day  
9 would encourage our schools to instruct children about this  
10 aspect of our American heritage, and

11 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would declare America's  
12 commitment to fundamental human rights to the whole world, and

13 WHEREAS, just as celebrating religious holidays reminds  
14 Americans of our religious beliefs and traditions, a Bill of  
15 Rights Day would remind Americans of the manner in which our  
16 history and philosophy have secured the rights for which  
17 oppressed people everywhere still yearn, and

18 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would be a memorial day  
19 honoring the personal sacrifices and deaths of countless  
20 millions of people who have struggled for basic human and  
21 civil rights over thousands of years, and

22 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would remind all elected  
23 and appointed officials and employees of the state and local  
24 executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government  
25 that their authority and powers are limited, and

26 WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would remind all members  
27 of government that they serve the citizens, not rule them, and  
28 that the citizens always hold the right to restrain  
29 government, and

30 WHEREAS, the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Bill  
31 of Rights deserve perennial celebrations, and the sacrifices

1 made to protect the Bill of Rights deserve eternal  
2 remembrance, and

3 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights of the United States  
4 Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791, NOW,  
5 THEREFORE,

6  
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

8  
9 Section 1. Section 683.25, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 683.25 Bill of Rights Day.--

12 (1) December 15 of each year is designated as "Bill of  
13 Rights Day."

14 (2) The Governor may issue annually a proclamation  
15 designating December 15 as "Bill of Rights Day" and calling  
16 upon all citizens of the state to observe the occasion.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
18 law.

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