

By the Committee on Children and Families; and Senator Mitchell

300-1881-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Parents' and Children's Day;  
3           amending s. 683.17, F.S.; renaming "Children's  
4           Day" as "Parents' and Children's Day"; changing  
5           the designated day for the celebration of  
6           Parents' and Children's Day; providing an  
7           effective date.

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9           WHEREAS, the Legislature intends that Florida Parents'  
10          and Children's Day become the model for a National Parents'  
11          and Children's Day, and

12           WHEREAS, the public awareness component of Parents' and  
13          Children's Day is designed to encourage public and private  
14          entities to demonstrate Florida's support of child well-being,  
15          and

16           WHEREAS, the key indicators of child well-being include  
17          children who are healthy, safe, and ready to learn; families  
18          that are stable, nurturing, and self-sufficient; and  
19          communities that are supportive of families raising children,  
20          and

21           WHEREAS, every parent in Florida should have access to  
22          prenatal and infant health care; training and education in  
23          parenting skills to help build healthy families; high-quality  
24          child care and early learning opportunities; safe and  
25          enriching after-school experiences; and access to delinquency  
26          prevention programs and services to treat children with  
27          problems, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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1 Section 1. Section 683.17, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3 683.17 Parents' and Children's Day.--The first Sunday  
4 ~~second Tuesday~~ in April of each year is designated as Parents'  
5 and Children's Day. On this day local communities and  
6 families, together with public officials, schools, private  
7 organizations, and all citizens, are encouraged to celebrate  
8 the lives and blessings of Florida's children with love,  
9 respect, gratitude, and encouragement;~~both~~ to acknowledge our  
10 ~~Florida's~~ children as the resource giving our state ~~it~~ the  
11 greatest hope of future excellence; to listen to children and  
12 ~~to~~ reaffirm our shared ~~their~~ commitment to help them ~~Florida's~~  
13 ~~children~~ develop their unique qualities, strengths, and  
14 potential, resulting in greater productive capacity and  
15 enlightened citizenship; and to observe this day with  
16 appropriate activities, ceremonies, public awareness  
17 materials, and programs. All citizens of the state are  
18 encouraged to wear a white ribbon on Parents' and Children's  
19 Day which shall indicate that our children are considered to  
20 be special gifts and are valued for their part in the circle  
21 of life.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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24 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
25 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
26 Senate Bill 1500

27 Redesignates Children's Day as Parents' and Children's Day.

28 Recognizes the key indicators of child-well being and that  
29 every parent should have access to services needed by the  
children.

30 Recognizes the intent of the public awareness component of the  
31 Parents' and Children's Day as to encourage a demonstration of  
Florida's support of child-well being.