



## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

**Provide limited government** – The bill places a mandate on local school districts to observe Veterans' Day as a school holiday, removing flexibility districts now have in setting their school calendars.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Currently, district school boards have flexibility to determine their own school calendars. They are directed by rule to adopt an annual calendar prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, and must file it with DOE (6A-10.019, F.A.C.). By rule, the calendar must support the following objectives:

- Minimal loss of time between student exit from one public institution and entry into another,
- Opportunity for students to move through the educational system at their respective paces,
- Opportunity for school personnel to utilize in-service and continuing education, and
- Opportunity for effective and efficient utilization of resources.

Beyond the requirement to support these objectives, there are no limitations on the school board-adopted calendar. During the 2004-05 school year a total of 50 school districts observed Veterans' Day as a school holiday.<sup>1</sup>

The bill requires all school districts to include Veterans' Day as a required student holiday, mandating that the holiday be celebrated on November 11<sup>th</sup> and that no classes be held on that day for any reason. If November 11<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the district is not allowed to observe the holiday.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1.** Creates an unnumbered section of law to require school districts to observe Veterans' Day, and to prohibit classes on that day.

**Section 2.** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

### II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

##### 1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

##### 2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government expenditures.

#### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

##### 1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical Brief, Bureau of Education Information & Accountability Services. School District Calendars, Table 3 – Holidays, 2004-05. Available at <http://www.firm.edu/doe/eias/eiaspubs/pdf/calendar.pdf>

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

### III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a municipality or county to spend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

### IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On March 22, 2005, the PreK-12 Committee adopted one amendment and an amendment to the amendment.

The effect of the amendment, as amended, was twofold:

First, the amendment allowed some flexibility for school districts to hold classes on Veterans Day in order to make-up for school days that were cancelled due to inclement weather; the health, safety or welfare of students; or a declared state of emergency.

Second, the amendment changed the effective date of the bill from July 1, 2005, to January 1, 2006, in order to accommodate districts that have already approved their school calendar for the 2005-2006 school year.