

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: Community Affairs Committee

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BILL: CS/SB 612

SPONSOR: Community Affairs Committee, Senator Hill, and others

SUBJECT: Veterans' Day/Schools

DATE: April 5, 2005

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Hermanson</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/1 amendment</u>
2.	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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## I. Summary:

This committee substitute (CS) requires all school districts to observe November 11 of each year as the Veterans' Day holiday, and provides classes may not be held on that day for any reason except a declared state emergency.

The CS creates an undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2005.

## II. Present Situation:

Currently, s. 1001.42(4)(g), F.S., states that district school boards designate the observance of school holidays and vacation periods. Therefore, the question of whether or not to observe Veterans' Day, or any other holiday, is left up to the district school boards. During the 2004-2005 school year, 46 out of 67 school districts decided to observe Veterans' Day as a holiday.<sup>1</sup> These numbers were reported the summer before the 2004-2005 school year, and therefore they reflect what the districts planned to do before the hurricanes in the fall of 2004. In addition, most public universities observe Veterans' Day.

Section 110.117, F.S., states that Veterans' Day is one of nine paid holidays observed by all state branches and agencies. For federal employees, Congress also established November 11<sup>th</sup> as Veterans' Day, and that day is a public holiday for Federal employees.<sup>2</sup> For both Florida and federal government employees, when a holiday falls on a non-workday, the holiday is observed

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<sup>1</sup> Source: DOE Statistical Brief on School District Calendars, released July 2004

<sup>2</sup> 5 U.S.C. 6103 (2005)

on Monday (if the holiday falls on Sunday) or Friday (if the holiday falls on Saturday). Veteran's Day will fall on a Saturday in 2006 and a Sunday in 2007. Therefore, Florida and federal employees will observe Veterans' Day on Friday November 10 in 2006 and Monday November 12 in 2007.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The CS takes away the local school board's ability to decide whether or not to observe Veterans' Day and requires all school districts to observe Veterans' Day on November 11 of each year. School districts will not be able to hold classes on November 11 for any reason, except pursuant to a declared state emergency. Under this provision school districts would be allowed to convene classes on Veterans' Day to make-up school days cancelled as a result of declared emergencies or natural disasters.

The CS does not indicate whether the prior Friday or following Monday should be observed as Veterans' Day holiday if November 11 falls on a weekend (as it does in 2006).

A recent survey of school district superintendents indicates that of the (37) responding districts, twenty-nine districts are opposed to a mandatory Veteran's Day holiday, and would instead prefer to conduct programs involving veterans at the schools. Seven districts support mandating Veterans' Day as a holiday.

The effective date of the CS is July 1, 2005.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

The CS pertains to school districts, and thus private schools are not required to observe November 11 as the Veterans' Day holiday.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The fiscal impact is indeterminable.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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## **VIII. Summary of Amendments:**

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