

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.)

Prepared By: Education Committee

BILL: SB 612

SPONSOR: Senator Hill

SUBJECT: Veteran's Day

DATE: March 10, 2005

REVISED: 03/21/05

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Hermanson	O'Farrell	ED	Fav/1 amendment
2.		CA	
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Please see last section for Summary of Amendments

- ☐ Technical amendments were recommended
☐ Amendments were recommended
☒ Significant amendments were recommended

I. Summary:

This bill requires all school districts to observe November 11 of each year as the Veteran's Day holiday, and classes may not be held on that day for any reason.

The bill 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 Veteran's 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 Veteran's Day.¹ 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 fall 2004. In addition, most public universities observe Veteran's Day.

¹ Source: DOE Statistical Brief on School District Calendars, released July 2004

Section 110.117, F.S. states that Veteran's Day is one of nine paid holidays observed by all state branches and agencies. For federal employees, Congress also established November 11th as Veterans' Day, and that day is a public holiday for Federal employees.² For both Florida and federal government employees, when a holiday falls on a non-workday, the holiday is observed 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 Veteran's Day on Friday November 10 in 2006 and Monday November 12 in 2007.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill takes away the local school board's ability to decide whether or not to observe Veteran's Day and requires all school districts to observe Veteran's Day on November 11 of each year. School districts will not be able to hold classes on November 11 for any reason, including to make-up missed school days as a result of emergencies or natural disasters.

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

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

The effective date of the bill 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.

² 5 U.S.C. 6103 (2005)

B. Private Sector Impact:

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

C. Government Sector Impact:

The fiscal impact is indeterminable.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

Barcode 615846 by Education:

Provides an exception for a declared state emergency. (WITH TITLE AMENDMENT)

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