

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 354

INTRODUCER: Senator Hill

SUBJECT: Veterans' Day Observance

DATE: November 18, 2005 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Carrouth</u>	<u>Matthews</u>	<u>ED</u>	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	<u>CA</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires each school district to observe November 11th of each year as the Veteran's Day holiday, and classes may not be held on that day for any reason except for a declared state of emergency.

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Statutes.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2006.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, s. 1001.42(4) (g), F.S., requires district school boards to designate school holidays and vacation periods as a part of their yearly calendar. Therefore, the decision to observe Veteran's Day, or any other holiday, is determined by individual district school boards. During the 2005-2006 school year, 48 of 67 school districts chose to observe Veteran's Day.¹ However, districts affected by the 2005 hurricane season are likely to amend their calendars in order to make up lost instructional time.

Section 110.117, F.S. specifies Veteran's Day as one of nine paid holidays to be observed by all state branches and agencies. Congress also establishes November 11th as Veterans' Day and the day is observed as a public holiday for Federal employees.² 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) for both Florida and federal government employees. Veteran's Day

¹ Source: DOE Statistical Brief on School District Calendars, released July 2005

² 5 U.S.C.A. s. 6103

will fall on a Saturday in 2006 and a Sunday in 2007. Therefore, Florida state and federal employees will observe Veteran's Day on Friday, November 10th in 2006 and Monday, November 12th in 2007.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill would remove a school board's discretion to decide whether or not to hold classes on Veteran's Day, requiring all school districts to observe Veteran's Day as a holiday each year. School districts will not be able to hold classes on November 11th, except for declared state emergencies. The bill specifies that the prior Friday or following Monday shall be observed as the Veteran's Day holiday when November 11th falls on a weekend (as it will in 2006 and 2007).

Each of the nineteen school districts that presently hold classes on November 11th were surveyed. Four school district superintendents responded.³ Each of the superintendents who responded was vocal in their commitment to local decision-making and believed that conducting classes on Veterans' Day genuinely engaged their students in meaningful activities that honor and include local veterans.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2006.

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 fiscal impact is indeterminable.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The fiscal impact is indeterminable.

³ Desoto, Gulf, Okeechobee, and Union Counties

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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