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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Three Kings Day; creating s. 683.33, F.S.; designating January 6 as "Three Kings Day" and authorizing local governments to issue proclamations commemorating the occasion; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Hispanic history of this state began in 1513 when Ponce de Leon arrived in the land he called La Pascua Florida, and

WHEREAS, this Hispanic history of the state was strengthened when, in 1565, Pedro Menendez de Aviles founded San Augustin, or St. Augustine, the first permanent European settlement in what is now the United States, and

WHEREAS, Florida was a Spanish colony for almost 300 years, except for a 20-year period between 1763 and 1783, until the Adams-Onis Treaty ceded Florida to the United States in 1821, and

WHEREAS, Hispanic people have remained in Florida since it was a Spanish colony, and

WHEREAS, Hispanic food, traditions, and culture have contributed greatly to the state in the past, and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic population of Florida has grown substantially in recent history by immigration and, as a result, the Hispanic population continues to influence the food, traditions, and culture of Florida, and

WHEREAS, El Dia de los Reyes Magos, or "Three Kings Day," is a day that has not only religious meaning for many Hispanics but is also a day that has deep cultural roots that encourage extended families and friends to visit each other

1 and enjoy each other's company, to celebrate, and to exchange
2 gifts, NOW, THEREFORE,

3
4 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

5
6 Section 1. Section 683.33, Florida Statutes, is
7 created to read:

8 683.33 Three Kings Day.--

9 (1) January 6 of each year is designated as "Three
10 Kings Day."

11 (2) Local governments may annually issue a
12 proclamation commemorating January 6 as "Three Kings Day" and
13 recognize that many residents of the state celebrate the
14 occasion as a time to be with their family and friends, attend
15 services, exchange gifts, and celebrate their cultural
16 heritage.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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