

HB 1105

2012

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to special observances; creating s.
3 683.185, F.S.; designating April 7 of each year as
4 "Everglades Day"; providing an effective date.

5
6 WHEREAS, as one of the largest wetlands in the world, the
7 Everglades ecosystem provides water supplies to one in three
8 Floridians and is an important aspect of South Florida's
9 tourism, agricultural, real estate, and recreational economies,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Everglades National Park, which draws an average
12 of 1 million visitors annually, will celebrate its 65th
13 anniversary in 2012 and has been designated an International
14 Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of
15 International Importance in recognition of both its local and
16 global significance, and

17 WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, born on April 7, 1890,
18 was known as "the Mother of the Everglades" after writing the
19 bestselling book *The Everglades: River of Grass* and raising
20 public awareness for the preservation and restoration of the
21 Florida wetlands, and

22 WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas served on the committees
23 that created the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, created
24 the organization Friends of the Everglades, and spearheaded
25 efforts to enact legislation that would protect and preserve the
26 parks and their wildlife, and

27 WHEREAS, continued restoration and preservation of the
28 greater Everglades ecosystem, which originally spanned from Lake

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29 Okeechobee to Florida Bay, are needed to protect the habitat of
30 many species of animals, including 67 endangered species, and
31 WHEREAS, the significant economic and ecological importance
32 of the Everglades ecosystem and the memory of Marjory Stoneman
33 Douglas and her dedicated efforts to preserve the Everglades are
34 an invaluable part of Florida's heritage and its future, NOW,
35 THEREFORE,

36

37 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

38

39 Section 1. Section 683.185, Florida Statutes, is created
40 to read:

41 683.185 Everglades Day.—April 7 of each year is designated
42 as "Everglades Day."

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.