

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee

**BILL:** CS/SB 924

**INTRODUCER:** Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee; and Senator Simmons and others

**SUBJECT:** Special Observances

**DATE:** January 24, 2012      **REVISED:** \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Roam	Yeatman	EP	Fav/CS
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:**

A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE.....  Statement of Substantial Changes

B. AMENDMENTS.....  Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

**I. Summary:**

This bill designates April 7 of each year as “Everglades Day.”

The bill creates section 683.185, of the Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

Chapter 683, F.S., contains the legal holidays and special observances commemorated in Florida’s statutes.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the legal holidays denoted in s. 683.01, F.S., there are more than 30 special observances recognized to date.<sup>2</sup> These special observances commemorate a variety of persons, events or religious observances including teachers, retired teachers, Ann Arbor Day, Ronald Reagan Day, I am an American Day, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Good Friday, and Florida’s Missing Children Day.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Section 683, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 683.04-32, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

The Florida Everglades is one of the largest wetlands in the world.<sup>4</sup> It supplies water to one in three Floridians.<sup>5</sup> The Florida Everglades draw over 1 million visitors annually and serve an important role in the tourism, agricultural, real estate and recreational industries in the state.<sup>6</sup>

The Florida Everglades once spanned from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay.<sup>7</sup> Due to subsequent environmental degradation, it has become the subject of one of the biggest ecological restoration efforts ever undertaken.<sup>8</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The preamble recognizes the importance of the Florida Everglades by creating a special observance of the Everglades on April 7 of each year. The Florida Everglades has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance. The Florida Everglades will celebrate its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. April 7 is also the birthday of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, a renown Everglades activist until her death in 1988.<sup>9</sup>

**Section 1** designates April 7 of each year as “Everglades Day.”

**Section 2** provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

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

None.

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

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

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<sup>4</sup> Gregory B. Noe, Daniel L. Childers, and Ronald D. Jones; *Phosphorus Biogeochemistry and the Impact of Phosphorus Enrichment: Why Is the Everglades So Unique? Ecosystems*, Vol. 4, No. 7, pp. 603 (Nov., 2001).

<sup>5</sup> Richard Gibbs; *Poll: Florida Voters Recognize Direct Connection Between Clean, Sustainable Water Supply, & Everglades Protection*, The Everglades Foundation, February 28, 2011, available at: <http://audubonoffloridanews.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/efpr.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*; National Resources Defense Counsel, *Florida Everglades*, available at: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/conservation/qever.asp>.

<sup>7</sup> Alice L. Clarke and George H. Dalrymple, *7.8 Billion for Everglades Restoration: Why Do Environmentalists Look so Worried?* *Population and Environment*, Vol. 24, No. 6, pp. 541-569 Restoring the Florida Everglades: Balancing Population and Environment (Jul., 2003).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Everglades Digital Library, *Reclaiming the Everglades*, available at: <http://everglades.fiu.edu/reclaim/bios/douglas.htm>, (last visited Jan. 24, 2012).

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

## A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Environmental Preservation and Conservation on January 24, 2012:**

The bill was amended to change the date of the annual Everglades Day from April 4<sup>th</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## B. Amendments:

None.