

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: SB 924

INTRODUCER: Senator Simmons

SUBJECT: Special Observances

DATE: January 10, 2012

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Roam	Yeatman	EP	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill designates April 4 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.¹ In addition to the legal holidays denoted in s. 683.01, F.S., there are more than 30 special observances recognized to date.² 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.³

The Florida Everglades is one of the largest wetlands in the world.⁴ It supplies water to one in three Floridians.⁵ 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.⁶

¹ Section 683, F.S.

² Section 683.04-32, F.S.

³ *Id.*

⁴ 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).

⁵ 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>.

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

This bill recognizes the importance of the Florida Everglades by creating a special observance of the Everglades on April 4 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 70th anniversary in 2012.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 designates April 4 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.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

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

⁷ 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).

⁸ *Id.*

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.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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