

By Senator Simmons

22-00731A-12

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to special observances; creating s.
3 683.185, F.S.; designating April 4 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 70th
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, continued restoration and preservation of the
18 greater Everglades ecosystem, which originally spanned from Lake
19 Okeechobee to Florida Bay, are needed to protect the habitat of
20 many species of animals, including 67 endangered species, and

21 WHEREAS, the significant economic and ecological importance
22 of the Everglades ecosystem is an invaluable part of Florida's
23 heritage and its future, NOW, THEREFORE,
24

25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
26

27 Section 1. Section 683.185, Florida Statutes, is created to
28 read:

29 683.185 Everglades Day.—April 4 of each year is designated

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30 as "Everglades Day."

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