

By the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation;  
and Senators Simmons, Margolis, Rich, and Bogdanoff

592-02285-12

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

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

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

WHEREAS, continued restoration and preservation of the  
greater Everglades ecosystem, which originally spanned from Lake  
Okeechobee to Florida Bay, are needed to protect the habitat of  
many species of animals, including 67 endangered species, and

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

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

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

683.185 Everglades Day.—April 7 of each year is designated

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30 as "Everglades Day."

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