

By Senator Soto

14-00238-13

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to daylight saving time; providing a
3 short title; exempting the State of Florida and its
4 political subdivisions from daylight saving time;
5 requiring that the state and all of its political
6 subdivisions observe standard time; authorizing each
7 district school board to adjust school start times due
8 to the exemption from daylight saving time;
9 authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
10 Services to study adjustments in standard agricultural
11 practices due to the exemption from daylight saving
12 time; providing an effective date.

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14 WHEREAS, the Uniform Time Act of 1966, 15 U.S.C. s. 260(a),
15 mandates a uniform and coordinated system of observing time
16 throughout the United States, including the observance of
17 daylight saving time from 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March
18 until 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November of each year, and

19 WHEREAS, states may exempt themselves from daylight saving
20 time by legislative act and by opting to observe only standard
21 time throughout the state, and

22 WHEREAS, Florida's sunshine is an essential economic asset
23 and part of this state's quality of life, and

24 WHEREAS, additional sunshine would have a positive economic
25 impact on numerous businesses throughout the state, and

26 WHEREAS, district school boards are capable within their
27 discretion to adjust school start times to ensure student
28 safety, and

29 WHEREAS, this state's agricultural industry no longer

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30 requires daylight saving time for increased productivity, NOW,
31 THEREFORE,

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

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35 Section 1. (1) This section may be cited as the "Sunshine
36 Protection Act."

37 (2) Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. s. 260(a), this state exempts
38 itself and all of its political subdivisions from observation of
39 daylight saving time, between 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in
40 March and 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November of each
41 calendar year, and the entire state and all of its political
42 subdivisions shall observe the standard time that is otherwise
43 applicable during that time period.

44 (3) Each district school board may adjust school start
45 times based on student safety and available daylight as a result
46 of this section.

47 (4) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may
48 study adjustments in standard agricultural practices as a result
49 of this section.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2014.