

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 Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

BILL: SB 946

INTRODUCER: Senator Bullard

SUBJECT: Legal Holidays and Special Observances

DATE: March 9, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Kim	McVaney	GO	Pre-meeting
2.			EP	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 946 designates the second Monday in October of each year “Sir Lancelot Jones Day.” The bill provides that the Governor may issue a proclamation and encourages citizens to honor the legacy of Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones, who contributed to the preservation of Biscayne Bay and the establishment of Biscayne National Park.

II. Present Situation:

Laws designating legal holidays and special observances are located in Chapter 683 of the Florida Statutes. There are 21 legal holidays and 31 special observances. There are a variety of ways in which a holiday or observance may be enacted. Celebration of legal holidays and special observances can be statewide or limited to certain groups, such as schools, counties or branches of government. The dates, days or months designated in Chapter 683 may require the government or group to perform an action or may simply call for commemoration or observance. For example, on Pan American Day the Governor must issue a proclamation and all public schools must honor the republics of Latin America.¹ Gasparilla Day is a legal holiday on which government offices and banks are closed only in Hillsborough County.² Observance of a legal holiday may also be discretionary; for example, a chief judge in a judicial circuit is authorized to designate Rosh Hashanah or Good Friday as a legal holiday and close the courts in his or her circuit.³

State holidays on which all branches of state government are closed are found in section 110.117, F.S. The State of Florida recognizes nine holidays for which state employees are paid. Some legal holidays and state holidays, such as Christmas, overlap.⁴

¹ Section 683.05, F.S.

² Section 683.08, F.S.

³ Section 683.19, F.S.

⁴ Section 110.17(1)(i), F.S. and section 683.01(1)(t), F.S.

In 2014, Senate Resolution 1158 designated October 13, 2014 as “Lancelot Jones Day” in Florida. Currently, there is no legal holiday or special observance of Sir Lancelot Jones.

Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones was born in 1898 and resided in Porgy Key, near Biscayne Bay. Mr. Jones’ parents were early settlers of the area and the Jones Family Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Jones was a farmer, fisherman and conservationist who sold his family’s 277 acres of property to the National Park Service to contribute to what is now known as Biscayne National Park.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates section 683.095, F.S. and designates the second Monday of October of each year as “Sir Lancelot Jones Day.” The bill permits the Governor to issue a proclamation and encourages citizens, public entities, and private organizations to honor Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones and his contributions.

The bill becomes effective upon becoming law.

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:

The bill does not create a paid state holiday⁵ and does not require the governor to issue a proclamation. There should be no fiscal impact on state and local governments.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 683.095 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of 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.

⁵ 2015 Legislative Bill analysis from the Department of Management Services, dated February 25, 2015, <http://abar.laspbs.state.fl.us/ABAR/Document.aspx?id=4828&yr=2015> (last visited on March 5, 2015).