

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #:	CS/HB 497	FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:	
SPONSOR(S):	Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Jenne and others	115 Y's	1 N's
COMPANION BILLS:	SB 288	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 497 passed the House on March 9, 2016, as SB 288.

In 1954, Broward County acquired the area now known as the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park, designated it as an African-American beach, and promised to make the beach accessible. However, the county never built a road. By 1961, the beach still lacked tables, restrooms, shelter, and fresh water. In response, Eula Johnson, Dr. Von D. Mizell, and many others led a series of protest "wade-ins" on all white public beaches in Fort Lauderdale. Approximately 200 African American residents took part in the wade-ins between July and August 1961. These protests received national press attention. The City of Fort Lauderdale requested an injunction to end the wade-ins. The court disagreed with the municipality's position and entered an order in favor of the defendants, effectively ending segregation of public beaches. In 1973, the state designated the area as the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in recognition of Mr. Lloyd's efforts to acquire the land for Broward County.

The bill redesignates the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Broward County as the Von D. Mizell–Eula Johnson State Park. The bill also designates structures within the park in recognition of the contributions of Alphonso Giles, Dr. Calvin Shirley, George and Agnes Burrows, and W. George Allen to the civil rights movement in Broward County. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to erect suitable markers to designate the area and structures as described above.

The bill will likely have an insignificant negative fiscal impact on the state by requiring DEP to erect signs to reflect the renaming of the park and designation of the park structures.

The bill was approved by the Governor on April 6, 2016, ch. 2016-243, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2016.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

African Americans living in South Florida in the earlier part of the 20th century traveled from as far away as Palm Beach and Miami to use Fort Lauderdale's beaches, but met significant resistance from oceanfront property owners.¹ In 1946, a delegation from the Negro Professional and Business Men's League, Inc., petitioned the Board of County Commissioners "seeking a public bathing beach for colored people in Broward County."² In 1954, Broward County acquired a barrier island site, designated it for segregation, and promised to make the beach accessible.³ Individuals like Alphonso Giles piloted boats to allow African Americans to access the beach.⁴

By 1961, the beach still lacked road access, tables, restrooms, shelter, and fresh water.⁵ In response, Eula Johnson (president of the Fort Lauderdale NAACP chapter from 1959 to 1967),⁶ Dr. Von D. Mizell, and many others led a series of protest "wade-ins" on all white public beaches in Fort Lauderdale.⁷ Approximately 200 African American residents took part in the wade-ins between July and August 1961.⁸ These protests attracted national press attention.⁹ W. George Allen defended several of the individuals who participated in the wade-ins in court.¹⁰

The City of Fort Lauderdale requested an injunction to end the wade-ins.¹¹ The court disagreed with the municipality's position and entered an order in favor of the defendants, effectively ending segregation of public beaches. This inspired a larger civil rights movement that soon brought integration to local schools.¹² Individuals such as Dr. Calvin Shirley¹³ and George and Agnes Burrows¹⁴ led many efforts to reform and integrate Broward County during the movement.

¹ Florida State Parks, *Welcome to John U. Lloyd Beach State Park*, <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park-history/Lloyd-Beach> (last visited December 3, 2015).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Mr. Giles was also one of the first African Americans to attend Florida State College (now Florida State University), was a World War II veteran, and was the first member of the Broward County Marine Advisory Board. *Westside Gazette, Remembering Fort Lauderdale pioneer, WWII Veteran and Educator Alphonso Giles: A long life, well lived*, <http://thewestsidegazette.com/remembering-fort-lauderdale-pioneer-wwii-veteran-and-educator-alphonso-giles-a-long-life-well-lived/>, (last visited March 7, 2016).

⁵ William G. Crawford, Jr., *The Long Hard Fight for Equal Rights: A History of Broward County's Colored Beach and the Fort Lauderdale Beach 'Wade-Ins' of the Summer of 1961*, p. 30, available at <http://www.floridasbigdig.com/uploads/ColoredBeachWadeInTequesta0001.pdf> (last visited December 3, 2015).

⁶ *South Florida Times, Eula Johnson Arrived, Jim Crow Had to Go*, <http://www.sfltimes.com/uncategorized/eula-johnson-arrived-jim-crow-had-to-go> (last visited December 3, 2015).

⁷ Crawford, *supra* note 4, at 30.

⁸ Department of State, *Florida Historical Markers Programs – Marker: Broward*, <http://apps.flheritage.com/markers/markers.cfm?ID=broward> (last visited December 3, 2015).

⁹ Crawford, *supra* note 4, at 30 – 32.

¹⁰ Mr. Allen was an Army veteran, the first African American graduate of the University of Florida, and filed suits to integrate Broward County Schools. *The History Makers, W. George Allen*, <http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography/w-george-allen-41>, (last visited March 7, 2016).

¹¹ Crawford, *supra* note 4.

¹² Department of State, *supra* note 7.

¹³ Dr. Shirley was a World War II veteran, was one of the first African American doctors in Broward County, helped form the first African American hospital in Broward County, and successfully sued to be permitted on the staff at Broward General Hospital. *Sun-Sentinel, Calvin Shirley, early black doctor, left legacy of service*, http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2012-06-25/news/fl-calvin-shirley-obit-20120625_1_calvin-shirley-doctor-physicians, (last visited March 7, 2016).

¹⁴ George Burrows was the first licensed African American electrician in Broward County and community mentor. Agnes Burrows was a Broward County teacher and created a scholarship program for minority youth. *Sun-Sentinel, Agnes Burrows, longtime Blanche Ely teacher, dies at 84*, http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2010-12-21/news/fl-burrows-obit-20101221_1_school-day-nw-sixth-ave-education, (last visited March 7, 2016).

The state purchased the park from Broward County on August 23, 1973.¹⁵ The state designated the Broward Beach State Recreation Area as the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in recognition of Mr. Lloyd's efforts in acquisition of the land.¹⁶ Mr. Lloyd served as Broward County's attorney from 1945 to 1975.¹⁷

Today, the park area encompasses 310 acres between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, stretching from Port Everglades Inlet on the north to Dania on the south.¹⁸ In fiscal year 2014-2015, the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park attracted 581,850 visitors, 15th overall for state parks, and generated \$1,033,769 in revenue, 22nd overall for state parks.¹⁹

Effect of the Bill

The bill redesignates the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Broward County as the Von D. Mizell–Eula Johnson State Park. The bill also designates several structures at the park in honor of individuals who contributed to the civil rights movement in Broward County. Specifically, the bill designates:

- The boat ramp as the Alphonso Giles Boat Ramp;
- The marina pavilion as the Dr. Calvin Shirley Marina Pavilion;
- The Osprey pavilion as the George and Agnes Burrows Osprey Pavilion; and
- The Leatherback pavilion as the W. George Allen Leatherback Pavilion.

Lastly, the bill directs DEP to erect suitable markers to designate the area as the Von D. Mizell–Eula Johnson State Park and the structures as described above.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill will likely have an insignificant negative fiscal impact on the state by requiring DEP to erect signs to reflect the renaming of the park and designation of the park structures. DEP may also have to change the name of the park on promotional and other materials.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

¹⁵ Florida State Parks, *supra* note 1.

¹⁶ Chapter 76-300, Laws of Fla.

¹⁷ Broward County Bar Association, *History of the Broward County Courthouse*, <https://www.browardbar.org/history-of-the-broward-county-courthouse/> (last visited December 3, 2015).

¹⁸ Florida State Parks, *supra* note 1.

¹⁹ Department of Environmental Protection, Final Balance Report FY 14-15, on file with the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.