

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 Community Affairs

BILL: SB 858

INTRODUCER: Senator Steube and others

SUBJECT: Daylight Saving Time

DATE: January 22, 2018

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Present	Yeatman	CA	Pre-meeting
2.			CM	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 858 exempts the State of Florida and all of its political subdivisions from daylight saving time and requires that the state and its political subdivisions observe standard time.

II. Present Situation:

History of Daylight Saving Time in the United States¹

Although railroads in the United States and Canada instituted standard time in 1883, standard time was not established in law until the Act of March 19, 1918, sometimes called the Standard Time Act or the Calder Act. The Standard Time Act also established Daylight Saving Time. Daylight Saving Time was later repealed in 1919, but standard time in time zones remained in law. At that point, Daylight Saving Time became a local matter. It was re-established nationally early in World War II, and was continuously observed from February 9, 1942 to September 30, 1945. After World War II, the use of Daylight Saving Time varied among states and localities.

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 standardized the beginning and the end of daylight time in the U.S. but allowed for local exemptions from its observance. The Uniform Time Act provided that daylight time begins on the last Sunday in April and ends on the last Sunday in October, with the changeover to occur at 2 a.m. local time. Specifically, clocks are moved forward from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. in spring, and they are moved back from 2:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. in fall.

While the law does not require that all states observe Daylight Saving Time, if a state chooses to observe Daylight Saving Time, it must begin and end on federally mandated dates. Individual

¹ United States Naval Observatory, *Daylight Time*, available at http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/daylight_time.php.

states may exempt themselves from Daylight Saving Time and observe standard time² year-round by passing a state law if:

- The state lies entirely within a single time zone, and the exemption applies statewide; or
- The state is divided by a time zone boundary, and the exemptions applies either statewide or to the entire part of the state on one side of the time zone boundary.

Currently, Hawaii, most of Arizona,³ several United States commonwealths and territories,⁴ and various Native American nations⁵ are exempt from Daylight Saving Time.

The U.S. Department of Transportation states that Daylight Saving Time is observed because it saves energy, saves lives and prevents traffic injuries, and reduces crime.⁶

Currently, Florida law does not speak to the issue of DST. However, section 1.02, F.S., states that with regard to any act by an officer or department in Florida, “it shall be understood and intended that the...time shall be the United States standard time of the zone within which the act is to be performed...”

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates an unnumbered section that provides that Florida exempts itself and all of its political subdivisions from the observance of daylight saving time, between 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November of each calendar year.

Additionally, the bill provides that the entire state and all of its political subdivisions shall observe the standard time that is otherwise applicable during that period.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2019.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

² Standard time is the official time in the United States, as determined by two federal agencies: the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce; and its military counterpart, the United States Naval Observatory (USNO). The clocks run by these services are kept synchronized with each other as well as with those of other international timekeeping organizations. See <http://www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/time> and <https://www.nist.gov/pml/time-and-frequency-division> for more information.

³ Native American nations within Arizona have the right to use or opt out of DST. The Navajo Nation, which includes land in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, has chosen to use DST.

⁴ The commonwealths of the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands do not observe DST.

⁵ The Navajo Nation observes DST, but the Hopi Nation does not.

⁶ U.S. Department of Transportation, *Purpose of Daylight Saving Time*, available at <https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/daylight-saving-time>.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

There may be indeterminate costs to reprogram computers and other electronic devices to eliminate the automatic changing of the clocks. However, these costs are likely to be insignificant.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There may be indeterminate costs to reprogram computers and other electronic devices to eliminate the automatic changing of the clocks. However, these costs are likely to be insignificant.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an unnumbered section 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.