

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Victims of Communism Day; amending
3 s. 683.01, F.S.; establishing November 7 as the
4 Victims of Communism legal holiday; requiring the
5 Legislature to annually observe a moment of silence in
6 observance of Victims of Communism Day; providing an
7 effective date.

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9 WHEREAS, over 100 years have passed since the Bolshevik
10 Revolution in Russia and the formation of the first communist
11 government under Vladimir Lenin, leading to decades of
12 oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the
13 world, and

14 WHEREAS, based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx,
15 communism has proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty,
16 prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given rise to such
17 infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Hồ
18 Chi Minh, and Pol Pot, and

19 WHEREAS, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than
20 100 million people and subjected countless others to
21 exploitation and unspeakable atrocities, with victims
22 representing many different ethnicities, creeds, and
23 backgrounds, and

24 WHEREAS, through false promises of equality and liberation,
25 communist regimes have systematically robbed their own citizens

26 | of the rights of freedom of worship, freedom of speech, and
 27 | freedom of association through coercion, brutality, and fear,
 28 | and

29 | WHEREAS, many victims of communism were persecuted as
 30 | political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and
 31 | others were killed in genocidal state-sponsored purges of
 32 | undesirable groups, and

33 | WHEREAS, in addition to violating basic human rights,
 34 | communist regimes have suppressed intellectual freedom, cultural
 35 | life, and self-determination movements in more than 40 nations,
 36 | NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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 40 | Section 1. Paragraphs (q) through (u) of subsection (1) of
 41 | section 683.01, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs
 42 | (r) through (v), respectively, and a new paragraph (q) is added
 43 | to that subsection to read:

44 | 683.01 Legal holidays.—

45 | (1) The legal holidays, which are also public holidays,
 46 | are the following:

47 | (q) Victims of Communism Day, November 7.

48 | Section 2. The Legislature shall, on the final day of each
 49 | regular legislative session, observe a moment of silence in
 50 | observance of Victims of Communism Day.

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51 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.