

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 765](#)

TITLE: Celia Cruz Day

SPONSOR(S): Daniels, Rizo

COMPANION BILL: [SB 972](#) (Rodriguez)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Government Operations](#)



[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill designates October 21 of each year as “Celia Cruz Day.”

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill designates October 21 of each year as “Celia Cruz Day.” (Section [1](#))

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Legal Holidays and Special Observances

Current law provides designations for legal holidays and special observances. Recognition of a legal holiday or special observance may apply statewide or may be limited to a particular region. For example, “Gasparilla Day”¹ is a legal holiday observed only in Hillsborough County, while “Bill of Rights Day,”² if issued by the Governor, applies throughout the state. Depending on the holiday or special observance, certain actions may be required to be performed for the commemoration or observance of the date, day, or month. For example, the Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating April 2 as “Florida State Day” and may designate the week of March 27 to April 2 as “Pascua Florida Week.”³ Florida law recognizes the month of September as “American Founders’ Month,” urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and public and private educational institutions to recognize this occasion through appropriate programs and celebrations,⁴ and the last full week of classes in September as “Celebrate Freedom Week,”⁵ in which public schools are required to include at least three hours of grade-appropriate instruction related to the meaning and importance of the Declaration of Independence in social studies classes.⁶

¹ S. [683.08, F.S.](#)

² S. [683.25, F.S.](#)

³ S. [683.06, F.S.](#)

⁴ S. [688.1455, F.S.](#)

⁵ S. [1003.421, F.S.](#)

⁶ Florida Department of Education, [American Founders’ Month](#) (last visited March 26, 2025).

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There are 21 legal holidays⁷ established in law and 36 special observances.⁸ The state recognizes nine paid holidays that are observed by all state branches and agencies.⁹

Celia Cruz

Celia Cruz was born in Havana, Cuba on October 21, 1925. She recorded over 80 albums over the course of a career spanning six decades and is known internationally as the “Queen of Latin Music” and “Queen of Salsa.”¹⁰ In 1960, Cruz’s band, La Sonora Matancera, renounced Fidel Castro’s socialist regime, resulting in her exile from Cuba and subsequent immigration to the United States in 1961.¹¹ She went on to win five Grammy Awards and several honors and recognitions for her contribution to Latin music,¹² including the National Medal of Arts by President Bill Clinton.¹³ In 2024, the United States Mint honored Celia Cruz by including her among the honorees of the American Women Quarters Program, honoring women who have made significant contributions to American life.¹⁴ In 2018, a statue of Celia Cruz was unveiled in the Cuban Culture in Exile Heritage Park in Hialeah.¹⁵

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Government Operations Subcommittee			Toliver	Lines
State Affairs Committee				

⁷ S. [683.01, F.S.](#)

⁸ Ss. 683.04-683.3341, F.S.

⁹ S. [110.117\(1\), F.S.](#) Paid state holidays include: New Year’s Day, the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans’ Day, Thanksgiving Day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

¹⁰ National Museum of American History Behring Center, [Celia Cruz: Queen of Salsa](#) (Last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

¹¹ National Museum of African American History & Culture, [Celia Cruz](#) (Last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

¹² National Museum of American History Behring Center, [Celia Cruz: Queen of Salsa](#) (Last visited Mar. 26, 2025)

¹³ PBS: On Stage at the Kennedy Center, [Celia Cruz](#) (Last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

¹⁴ United States Mint, [United States Mint Announces 2024 American Quarters Program Honorees](#) (Last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

¹⁵ City of Hialeah, [Cuban Culture in Exile Heritage Park](#) (Last visited Mar. 26, 2025).