

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to special observances for speech and
3 debate; creating s. 683.338, F.S.; establishing
4 Florida Speech and Debate Week in the state; providing
5 an effective date.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 **Section 1. Section 683.338, Florida Statutes, is created**
10 **to read:**

11 683.338 Florida Speech and Debate Week.—

12 (1) The first week in November of each year is designated
13 as "Florida Speech and Debate Week" to:

14 (a) Recognize the academic, civic, and leadership value of
15 competitive speech and debate.

16 (b) Honor educators, coaches, judges, and school districts
17 that support debate programming.

18 (c) Inspire students statewide to participate in debate as
19 a pathway to civic engagement.

20 (d) Promote the state's role as the national leader in
21 scholastic speech and debate.

22 (2) The Department of Education, local school districts,
23 local governments, and other agencies are encouraged to sponsor
24 events, exhibitions, and recognitions celebrating the impact of
25 speech and debate in the state.

26 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026. |