

CS/HB 1059

2026

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

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

Section 1. Section 683.338, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.338 Florida Speech and Debate Week.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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