

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [HB 409](#)

TITLE: Observance of Veterans' Day by K-12 Schools

SPONSOR(S): Giallombardo

COMPANION BILL: [SB 464](#) (Avila)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Education Administration](#)

18 Y, 0 N

[Education & Employment](#)



SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires each school district to observe Veterans' Day as a school holiday.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires each [school district](#) to observe [Veterans' Day](#) as a school holiday, aligning with the [state-recognized observance](#) of the holiday.¹ (Section [1](#)).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#)).

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Veterans' Day](#)

Veterans' Day is a federal holiday observed annually on November 11 to honor United States military veterans. World War I officially ended with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919; however, fighting ceased earlier when an agreement to end the fighting between the Allied nations and Germany took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. Originally established as Armistice Day in 1938, the observance was renamed Veterans' Day in 1954 to honor veterans of all wars, and Congress restored the fixed November 11 observance in 1978 to preserve the historical significance of the date.²

[State-Recognized Observances](#)

Florida law designates the following as paid holidays observed by all state branches and agencies:³

- New Year's Day.
- Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., third Monday in January.
- Memorial Day.
- Independence Day.
- Labor Day.
- Veterans' Day, November 11.

¹ See [s. 110.117\(1\)\(f\), F.S.](#)

² U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum, The History of Veterans Day, <https://www.asomf.org/the-history-of-veterans-day/> (last visited Jan. 14, 2026).

³ Section [110.117\(1\)\(a\)-\(i\), F.S.](#)

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- Thanksgiving Day.
- Friday after Thanksgiving.
- Christmas Day.

If any of these holidays falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as a holiday. If any of these holidays falls on Sunday, the following Monday is observed as a holiday.⁴

Responsibilities of District School Boards

District school boards are responsible for establishing, organizing, and operating the schools within their district. This includes setting school calendars and designating school holidays and vacation periods.⁵

Under current law, boards have discretion to determine which holidays are observed, and observance may vary by district. During the 2025-2026 school year, 19 school districts remained open on Veteran's Day.⁶

BILL HISTORY

| COMMITTEE REFERENCE | ACTION | DATE | STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF | ANALYSIS PREPARED BY |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Education Administration Subcommittee | 18 Y, 0 N | 1/14/2026 | Sleap | Dixon |
| Education & Employment Committee | | | | |

⁴ Section [110.117\(1\), F.S.](#) (flush-left provision at the end of the paragraph).

⁵ Section [1001.42\(4\)\(g\), F.S.](#)

⁶ News-Press, *Will Florida kids get three-day weekend for Veterans Day? See list of which schools are open*, <https://www.newspress.com/story/news/2025/11/04/florida-schools-open-closed-veterans-day-list/86876227007/> (last visited Jan. 14, 2026).