

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

BILL: SB 464

INTRODUCER: Senator Avila

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

DATE: February 10, 2026

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|-----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | <u>Sabitsch</u> | <u>Bouck</u> | <u>ED</u> | Favorable |
| 2. | <u>McVaney</u> | <u>McVaney</u> | <u>GO</u> | Favorable |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | <u>RC</u> | _____ |

I. Summary:

SB 464 requires each school district to observe Veterans' Day as a school holiday.

The bill is effective July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, was generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”¹

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a resolution on June 4, 1926, recognizing the 11th of November and that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated. As the legislatures of twenty-seven states had already declared November 11th to be a legal holiday the resolution requested that the President of the United States issue a proclamation calling upon officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on November 11th and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.²

¹ U.S Department of Veterans Affairs, *History of Veterans Day*, <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/> (last visited January 13, 2026).

² *Id.*

In 1938, the 11th of November was designated each year as a legal holiday in an act of Congress and at that time was known as “Armistice Day,” and was primarily set aside to honor veterans of World War I. In 1954 the act was amended to replace “Armistice” with “Veterans” and became a day to honor all American Veterans of all wars.³

Veterans and Veterans’ Day in Florida

There are nearly 1.4 million veterans living in Florida as of 2023, second only to Texas with over 1.5 million veterans. Of those 1.4 million, 1.1 million are wartime veterans and 504,000 are service-connected disabled veterans. Some 692,000 Florida veterans are aged 65 or older.⁴

Florida law designates Veterans’ Day (November 11th) as one of numerous legal holidays to be observed in the state and provides that if a legal holiday falls on a Sunday that the following Monday will be considered the legal holiday.⁵ Florida law also designates November as “Veterans Appreciation Month” and allows the governor to issue an annual proclamation designating the observance and encouraging counties, municipalities, public schools and residents to create special programs and events to show appreciation the veterans who have served the United States.⁶

Florida law also designates Veterans’ Day on November 11th as a paid holiday for all state branches and agencies and stipulates that if the observance falls on a Saturday that the preceding Friday will be observed as the holiday and if the observance falls on a Sunday, the following Monday will be observed as the holiday.⁷

Florida district school boards are charged with setting the opening and closing of schools within each district and designating the observance of school holidays and vacation periods.⁸ For the 2025-2026 school year, 44 of 67 geographic school districts observed Veterans’ Day as a holiday while 11 of 13 special districts (e.g., the Florida Virtual School and laboratory schools) also observed the holiday.⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill modifies s. 1002.42, F.S., to require that each school district observe Veterans’ Day as a school holiday. This aligns with the Legislature’s recognition of the day as a state holiday.

³ U.S Department of Veterans Affairs, *History of Veterans Day*, <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/> (last visited Feb. 4, 2026).

⁴ Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, *Fast Facts*, <https://floridavets.org/our-veterans/profilefast-facts/> (last visited Feb. 4, 2026).

⁵ Section 683.01(1)(r), F.S.

⁶ Section 683.1475, F.S.

⁷ Section 110.117(1), F.S.

⁸ Section 1001.42(4)(f) and (g), F.S.

⁹ Florida Department of Education, *PK-12 Public School Data Publications & Reports: School District Calendars (2025-2026)*, <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/index.stml> (last visited Feb. 4, 2026).

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

Not applicable. The bill does not require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill does not have an impact on state or local government revenues or expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1001.42 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
