

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: SB 2274
 SPONSOR: Senator Jones
 SUBJECT: Florida Rescue Workers' Day
 DATE: February 22, 2002 REVISED: 02/26/02 _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Fav/1 amendment</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>CA</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill designates September 11th of each year as “Florida Rescue Workers’ Day” to recognize the sacrifices made by Florida rescue workers in the face of the unthinkable tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001.

This bill creates a new section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

On September 11, 2001, America suffered its greatest loss of life on American soil since the Civil War when four airplanes, hijacked by terrorists, attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon, and crashed in Pennsylvania. Immediately following this tragedy, hundreds of Florida law enforcement officers, firefighters, search and rescue personnel, and other citizens traveled to New York City and Washington D.C. to assist in the recovery efforts. These volunteers included the 72-member Florida Urban Search and Rescue Task Force headquartered in Miami-Dade County, employees from Miami-Dade County’s Office of Emergency Management, and Red Cross workers, many of whom worked twelve-hour shifts for seven or more consecutive days at a time.¹

During the 2001 Special Session B, the Florida Senate adopted a resolution that honored the dedication of rescue workers from across America, and expressed the state’s gratitude to those workers, in particular to those from Florida who traveled to New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Further, the resolution designated September 11th of each year as “Florida Rescue Workers’ Day.”²

¹ Mike Schneider, “Attack: Florida Sends Search and Rescue Teams to New York,” Naples Daily News, September 18, 2001.

² See SR 108-B (adopted October 30, 2001).

Chapter 683, F.S., relates to legal holidays and special observances. Section 683.01, F.S., designates 21 legal holidays,³ while other provisions in ss. 683.04-683.325, F.S., designate special observances⁴ or explain the significance of certain legal holidays.⁵ Additionally, legal holidays for specific counties in the state are listed in the chapter.⁶ Section 683.01, F.S., does not authorize state offices to be closed, nor does it authorize the designated days as paid holidays for state employees. The nine holidays that are paid holidays for state employees are listed in s. 110.117, F.S.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates a new section of law to recognize the sacrifices made by Florida rescue workers in the face of unthinkable tragedy by designating September 11th of each year as “Florida Rescue Workers’ Day.”

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

³ The legal holidays named in s. 683.01, F.S., are: (a) Sunday, the first day of each week; (b) New Year’s Day, January 1; (c) Birthday of Martin Luther King, January 15; (d) Birthday of Robert E. Lee, January 19; (e) Lincoln’s Birthday, February 12; (f) Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday, February 15; (g) Washington’s birthday, the third Monday in February; (h) Good Friday; (i) Pascua Florida Day, April 2; (j) Confederate Memorial Day, April 26; (k) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May; (l) Birthday of Jefferson Davis, June 3; (m) Flag Day, June 14; (n) Independence Day, July 4; (o) Labor Day, the first Monday in September; (p) Columbus Day and Farmers’ Day, the second Monday in October; (q) Veterans’ Day, November 11; (r) General Election Day; (s) Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November; (t) Christmas Day, December 25; and (u) Shrove Tuesday.

⁴ See Section 683.04, F.S. (Arbor Day), Section 683.05, F.S. (Pan-American Day), Section 683.10, F.S. (Grandmother’s Day), Section 683.11, F.S. (Law Enforcement Appreciation Month), Section 683.115, F.S. (Law Enforcement Memorial Day), Section 683.13, F.S. (National Day of Mourning), Section 683.14, F.S. (Patriots’ Day), Section 683.145, F.S. (I Am An American Day), Section 683.15, F.S. (Teacher’s Day), Section 683.16, F.S. (Retired Teachers’ Day), Section 683.17, F.S. (Children’s Day), Section 683.18, F.S. (Save the Florida Panther Day), Section 683.21, F.S. (Juneteenth Day), Section 683.22, F.S. (Law Day and Law Week), Section 683.23, F.S. (Florida Missing Children’s Day), and Section 683.24 F.S. (Florida Alzheimer’s Disease Day).

⁵ See Section 683.06 (discussing Pascua Florida Day), and Section 683.19, F.S. (providing that the chief judge in each judicial circuit may declare Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday as legal holidays for the courts within the circuit).

⁶ See Section 683.08, F.S. (designating Gasparilla Day as a legal holiday in Hillsborough County), Section 683.09, F.S. (designating Desoto Day as a legal holiday in Manatee County), and Section 683.12, F.S. (designating Parade Day as a legal holiday in Hillsborough County).

⁷ The following holidays are paid holidays observed by all state branches and agencies: (a) New Year’s Day; (b) Birthday of Martin Luther King, third Monday in January; (c) Memorial Day; (d) Independence Day; (e) Labor Day; (f) Veterans’ Day, November 11; (g) Thanksgiving Day; (h) Friday after Thanksgiving; and (i) Christmas Day.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The bill creates a new, unnumbered section of law to designate September 11th of each year as “Florida Rescue Workers’ Day.” Chapter 683, F.S., sets forth legal holidays and days of special observance in Florida. It may be desirable to amend the bill to place the new section of law created by the bill in ch. 683, F.S.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

#1 by Governmental Oversight and Productivity:

Places the unnumbered section created by the bill in ch. 683, F.S., which pertains to days of special observance.