

# 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.)

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Prepared By: Military Affairs and Domestic Security Committee

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BILL: SB 102

INTRODUCER: Senator Hill

SUBJECT: Veterans' Day Observance/Schools

DATE: February 7, 2007

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Pardue</u>	<u>Skelton</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>ED</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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## I. Summary:

This bill requires each school district to observe the Veterans' Day holiday annually. Classes may not be held on that day for any reason except for a declared state of emergency.

The fiscal impact of the bill to school districts is considered negligible. Parents may incur additional child care costs.

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

**Establishment of Veterans' Day** – World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when a 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, is generally regarded as the end of World War I.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history and American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the Congress, at the urging of the veterans

service organizations, amended the Act to name the holiday “Veterans Day.” November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.<sup>1</sup>

**Veterans’ Day Observance in Florida** - Currently, s. 1001.42(4) (g), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires district school boards to designate school holidays and vacation periods as a part of their yearly calendar. Therefore, the decision to observe Veterans’ Day, or any other holiday, is determined by individual district school boards. During the 2006-2007 school year, 36 of 67 school districts chose to observe Veterans’ Day.<sup>2</sup>

Section 110.117, F.S. specifies Veterans’ Day as one of nine paid holidays to be observed by all state branches and agencies. Congress also observes November 11<sup>th</sup> as Veterans’ Day and has authorized it as a public holiday for federal employees.<sup>3</sup> When a holiday falls on a non-workday, the holiday is observed on Monday (if the holiday falls on Sunday) or Friday (if the holiday falls on Saturday) for both Florida and federal government employees.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill requires all school districts to observe November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans’ Day, as a holiday each year. School districts will not be able to hold classes on Veterans Day, except for declared state emergencies. The bill specifies that the prior Friday or following Monday shall be observed as the Veterans’ Day holiday when November 11<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend.

The bill would remove a school board’s discretion to decide whether or not to hold classes on Veterans’ Day. School district calendars may have to be extended by one day to meet the minimum school term of 180 days required by s. 1003.02, F.S.

The bill provides for an effective date of July 1, 2007.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs website, [www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp)

<sup>2</sup> Source: Florida DOE Statistical Brief on School District Calendars, released July 2006

<sup>3</sup> 5 U.S.C, s. 6103

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

This bill may require parents, whose employers do not observe Veterans Day, to incur additional child care costs. Due to the many variables among a kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade population of approximately 1.4 million students, potential additional child care costs are difficult to estimate.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

Section 1003.02, F.S., requires district school boards to provide for the operation of all public schools as free schools for a term of at least 180 days or the equivalent on an hourly basis as specified by rules of the State Board of Education. School operating budgets are based on this fixed minimum instructional term. The addition of an additional non-instructional calendar day within a nine-month school calendar should not impact district fixed costs. The fiscal impact to school districts is considered negligible.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.



## **VIII. Summary of Amendments:**

None.

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

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