

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

BILL: SB 78

INTRODUCER: Senator Wilson

SUBJECT: Child Welfare Professionals

DATE: January 23, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Linton	Jameson	CF	Favorable
2.			GO	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

Senate bill 78 creates the “Child Welfare Professionals Recognition Day” to be observed the second Monday in May of each year.

This bill creates an undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 683, F.S., pertains to legal holidays and observances. There are currently 21 legal holidays designated in s. 683.01, F.S.¹ The chapter provides that whenever reference is made to “legal holidays” in contracts to be performed by the state, the term includes the holidays designated in s. 683.01, F.S., and such others as may be designated by law.²

Designation of a day as a legal holiday does not necessarily make that day a paid holiday for public employees. Presently, there are nine such paid holidays for state employees, all of which are listed in s. 110.117, F.S.³

¹ The legal holidays named in s. 683.01, F.S., are: (a) Sunday; (b) New Year’s Day; (c) Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.; (d) Birthday of Robert E. Lee; (e) Lincoln’s Birthday; (f) Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday; (g) Washington’s Birthday; (h) Good Friday; (i) Pascua Florida Day; (j) Confederate Memorial Day; (k) Memorial Day; (l) Birthday of Jefferson Davis; (m) Flag Day; (n) Independence Day; (o) Labor Day; (p) Columbus Day and Farmers’ Day; (q) Veterans’ Day; (r) General Election Day; (s) Thanksgiving Day; (t) Christmas Day; and (u) Shrove Tuesday.

² See s. 683.02, F.S.

³ The following holidays are paid holidays observed by all state branches and agencies: (a) New Year’s Day; (b) Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.; (c) Memorial Day; (d) Independence Day; (e) Labor Day; (f) Veterans’ Day; (g) Thanksgiving Day;

Additional holidays such as Gasparilla Day and Rosh Hashanah are designated as legal holidays in certain counties or judicial circuits.⁴

Chapter 683, F.S., additionally designates days of special observance that are not legal holidays. These include, but are not limited to, Law Enforcement Memorial Day, Teacher's Day, Florida Alzheimer's Disease Day, Patriots' Day, Florida Missing Children's Day, and Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.⁵

Currently, the state does not officially celebrate the efforts of child welfare professionals with a day of observance.

Section 402.40(2)(a), F.S., defines child welfare services as:

[A]ny intake, protective investigations, preprotective services, protective services, foster care, shelter and group care, and adoption and related services program, including supportive services, supervision, and legal services, provided to children who are alleged to have been abused, abandoned, or neglected, or who are at risk of becoming, are alleged to be, or have been found dependent pursuant to chapter 39.⁶

Further, s. 402.40(2)(b), F.S., defines a "person providing child welfare services" as "someone who has a responsibility for supervisory, legal, direct care or support related work in the provision of child welfare services pursuant to chapter 39."⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Beginning in May 2008, this bill designates the second Monday in May of each year as "Child Welfare Professionals Recognition Day." The purpose of this day is to recognize the efforts of all professionals who work with abused children and dysfunctional families.

The Department of Children and Families, local governments, and other agencies are encouraged to sponsor events to promote awareness of the child welfare system and the personnel who work in the system.

This bill is effective upon becoming law.

(h) Friday after Thanksgiving; and (i) Christmas Day.

⁴ See Ch. 683, F.S.

⁵ For a full list of special observances in the state and legal holidays in specific counties, see ss. 683.04 through 683.33, F.S.

⁶ See Ch. 39, F.S.

⁷ *Id.*

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Children and Families and other state and local entities are encouraged to sponsor events promoting awareness of the child welfare system and personnel, but are not required to do so.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial 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.
