

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 Environmental Preservation and Conservation

BILL: SB 946

INTRODUCER: Senator Bullard

SUBJECT: Legal Holidays and Special Observances

DATE: April 7, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Kim</u>	<u>McVaney</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Clift</u>	<u>Uchino</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 946 designates the second Monday of October of each year as “Sir Lancelot Jones Day.” The bill authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation and encourages citizens, public entities, and private organizations to honor Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones and his contributions in the preservation of Biscayne Bay and the establishment of Biscayne Bay National Park.

II. Present Situation:

Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones

Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones was born in 1898 and lived in Porgy Key, near Biscayne Bay. His parents were early settlers of the area and the Jones Family Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He was a farmer, fisherman, and conservationist. He was a skilled fishing guide and fished with many notable men, including presidents Warren Harding, Herbert Hoover, Lyndon Johnson, John F. Kennedy, and Richard Nixon.¹ In 1970, he sold 277 acres of his property to the National Park Service to contribute to what is now known as Biscayne National Park.²

In 2014, Senate Resolution 1158 designated October 13, 2014, as “Lancelot Jones Day” in Florida. Currently, there is no legal holiday or special observance of Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones.

¹ Susan Shumaker, *Untold Stories from America’s National Parks*, 47-68, available at <http://www-tc.pbs.org/nationalparks/media/pdfs/tnp-abi-untold-stories-pt-03-jones.pdf> (last accessed Apr. 7, 2015).

² National Park Service, *The Joneses of Porgy Key*, <http://www.nps.gov/bisc/learn/historyculture/the-joneses-of-porgy-key-page-3.htm> (Last accessed Apr. 6, 2015).

Legal Holidays and Special Observations

Florida has 21 legal holidays and 31 special observations, which are designated under ch. 683, F.S. Celebration of legal holidays and special observances can be statewide or limited to certain groups, such as schools, counties, or branches of government. The dates, days, or months designated in ch. 683, F.S., may require the government or group to perform an action or may simply call for commemoration or observance. For example, on Pan American Day the Governor must issue a proclamation and all public schools must honor the countries of Latin America.³ Gasparilla Day is a legal holiday on which government offices and banks are closed only in Hillsborough County.⁴ Observance of a legal holiday may also be discretionary. For instance, a chief judge in a judicial circuit is authorized to designate Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday as legal holidays and close the courts in his or her circuit.⁵

State holidays on which all branches of state government are closed are found in s. 110.117, F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill honors Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones and commemorates his contributions in the preservation of Biscayne Bay and the establishment of Biscayne Bay National Park by:

- Designating the second Monday of each October as “Sir Lancelot Jones Day”;
- Authorizing the Governor to designate this day; and
- Encouraging public officials, schools, private organizations, and all citizens to honor the legacy of Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones.

This bill becomes effective upon becoming a law.

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.

³ Section 683.05, F.S.

⁴ Section 683.08, F.S.

⁵ Section 683.19, F.S.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill does not create a paid state holiday and does not require the governor to issue a proclamation.⁶ There should be no fiscal impact on state and local governments.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 683.095 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.

⁶ DMS, *Senate Bill 946 Agency Analysis*, 2, (Feb. 25, 2015) (on file with the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation).