

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: CS/SB 860

INTRODUCER: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Detert

SUBJECT: Foster Families

DATE: January 14, 2016

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------|
| 1. | Preston | Hendon | CF | Fav/CS |
| 2. | | | RC | |

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Technical Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 860 designates the second week of February of each year as “Foster Family Appreciation Week,” to recognize the enduring and invaluable contributions that foster parents provide to the children in their care and, thus, to the future of the state.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state or local government.

The bill provides an effective day of upon becoming law.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 683, F.S., contains provisions relating 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

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, in certain counties.

² See s. 683.02, F.S.

public employees. Presently, there are nine paid holidays for state employees, all of which are listed in s. 110.117, F.S.³

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 contributions of foster families with a day of observance.

While Florida law does not define the terms "foster parent" or "foster family," these individuals and families play a key role in the child welfare system that provides services to children who must live away from their family of origin when that family cannot provide a safe environment or meet the special needs of the children. The role of the foster parents is to provide the foster child with a safe and healthy environment in a family home, on a temporary basis, until the child can be reunited with his/her family, be placed in another permanent setting, or moved into independent living.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 designates the second week of February each year as "Foster Family Appreciation Week." The purpose of the week is to recognize the enduring and invaluable contributions that foster parents provide to the children in their care and, thus, to the future of the state. The Department of Children and Families, local governments, and other agencies are encouraged to sponsor events to promote awareness of the contributions made by foster families to the vitality of the state.

Section 2 provides an effective date of upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

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

⁴ See ss. 683.08, 683.09, 683.12 and 683.19, F.S.

⁵ For a full list of special observances in the state and legal holidays in specific counties, see ss. 683.04 through 683.332, F.S.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates s. 683.333 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.)

CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on January 14, 2016:

The Committee Substitute removes an unnecessary date.

B. Amendments:

None.