

# 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: CS/SB 1500

SPONSOR: Children and Families Committee and Senator Mitchell

SUBJECT: Children's Day

DATE: February 21, 2002      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Dowds</u>	<u>Whiddon</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	<u>White</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

This bill amends s. 683.17, F.S., to redesignate Children’s Day as Parent’s and Children’s Day. The day on which Parent’s and Children’s Day is recognized is changed from the second Tuesday to the first Sunday in April of each year. The bill adds local communities and families to the groups targeted to recognize Parent’s and Children’s Day and provides for a public awareness component. All citizens are also encouraged to recognize Parent’s and Children’s Day by wearing a white ribbon.

This bill substantially amends section 683.17 of the Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

Section 683.17, F.S., designates the second Tuesday of April of each year as Children’s Day. Chapter 88-114, L.O.F., established Children’s Day in recognition of the importance of children and Florida’s responsibility to their future. Public officials, schools, private organizations and all citizens are encouraged to acknowledge the resource for Florida’s future excellence that the children give this state and to help this state’s children develop their qualities, strengths and potential to achieve greater productive capacity and enlightened citizenship.

Children’s Day has been recognized over the years with organizations and individuals representing children’s services and interests meeting in Tallahassee to conduct activities to educate public officials on the needs and issues facing children and the strategies to ensure their health and welfare.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill amends s. 683.17, F.S., to redesignate Children's Day as Parent's and Children's Day. The day on which Parent's and Children's Day is recognized is changed from the second Tuesday to the first Sunday in April of each year. The entities encouraged to participate in recognizing Children's Day have been expanded to include local communities and families. The celebration of the life and blessing of Florida's children has been added to the aspects of children that should be acknowledged on Parent's and Children's Day. The bill also provides for a public awareness component of Parent's and Children's Day. Specifically, individuals, organizations and families are encouraged to observe Parent's and Children's Day with ceremonies, programs and other appropriate activities. All citizens are also encouraged to recognize Parent's and Children's Day by wearing a white ribbon indicating that our children are valued and special gifts.

The legislative intent that Florida Parent's and Children's Day become a model for a National Parent's and Children's Day is expressed. The bill recognizes the contribution that prenatal and infant health, building families' parenting skills, high-quality child care, early learning opportunities, enriching after-school experiences, and delinquency prevention programs have on child and family well-being.

The focus of Children's Day has been expanded to incorporate the entire family. The addition of the local communities and public awareness components broadens the scope of Parent's and Children's Day to encourage local level activities. Such activities can both provide families with information that will assist them in accessing important resources and services for their children and call attention in individual communities to the critical issues facing children and families.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2002.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

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:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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

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