

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 Governmental Operations Committee

BILL: SB 2318

INTRODUCER: Senator Posey

SUBJECT: Daylight Saving Time

DATE: March 24, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	McKay	Wilson	GO	Favorable
2.			CA	
3.			GA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill exempts the state from participation in Daylight Saving Time.

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for overseeing the uniform observance of Daylight Saving Time (DST) in the United States as well as U.S. time zones. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. s. 260a) established a system of uniform (within each time zone) DST throughout the United States and its possessions. DST begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of April, and reverts to standard time at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. Exemptions to DST are authorized under U.S. Code, Title 15, Section 260a, which provides that:

- (1) any state that lies entirely within one time zone may by law exempt itself from the provisions of this subsection providing for the advancement of time, but only if that law provides that the entire state (including all political subdivisions thereof) shall observe the standard time otherwise applicable during that period, and
- (2) any state with parts thereof in more than one time zone may by law exempt either the entire state as provided in (1) or may exempt the entire area of the state lying within any time zone.

Currently, Hawaii and most of Arizona are exempt from DST. Exemptions are accomplished at the state level. Some states require this done by legislation, while others require an executive action such as a governor's executive order.

A short history of DST in the U.S. is provided by the Institute for Dynamic Educational Advancement:

Daylight saving has been used in the United States and in many European countries since World War I, when the system was adopted in order to conserve fuel needed to produce electric power. In 1918, in order to conserve resources for the war effort, Congress placed the country on Daylight Saving Time for the remainder of World War I. It was observed for seven months in 1918 and 1919. The law, however, proved so unpopular (mostly because people rose earlier and went to bed earlier than we do today) that the law was later repealed in 1919 over President Wilson's veto. It was continued in a few states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island) and some cities (New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and others).

During World War II, the United States observed year-round Daylight Saving Time (from February 2, 1942, to September 30, 1945). From 1945 to 1966, there was no federal law governing Daylight Saving Time, so multiple time observances were created as states and localities were free to observe or not to observe Daylight Saving Time and could choose when it began and ended. By 1966, some 100 million Americans were observing Daylight Saving Time based on their own local laws and customs.¹

In 1975, DOT was charged with evaluating a plan of extending DST into March, from the historical six-month DST (May through October). DOT found that this change may realize modest overall benefits in the areas of energy conservation, overall traffic safety, and reduced violent crime. However, DOT also reported that these benefits were minimal and difficult to distinguish from seasonal variations and fluctuations in energy prices. Later, Congress asked the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) to evaluate the DOT report. NBS found no significant energy savings or differences in traffic fatalities.²

Several federal laws have since amended the starting and ending dates we observe DST. The most recent change was passed by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The DST period was lengthened by one month through this act. It now begins the second Sunday in March and extends until the first Sunday in November.

Currently, Florida law does not speak to the issue of Daylight Saving Time, but instead follows the Federal Uniform Time Act.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates an unnumbered statute declaring that the State of Florida and all of its political subdivisions are exempt from the observation of Daylight Saving Time and will observe standard time, pursuant to the Uniform Time Act of 1966, 15 U.S.C. s. 260a.

¹ "Daylight Saving Time." <http://www.webexhibits.com/daylightsaving/e.html>.

² "Daylight Saving Time," Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 98-99 C, February 9, 1998.

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:

There could be costs to reprogram computers to eliminate the automatic changing of the clocks. These costs are probably not significant.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There could be costs to reprogram computers to eliminate the automatic changing of the clocks. These costs are probably not significant.

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.