

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 Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee

BILL: SB 726

INTRODUCER: Senator Bullard

SUBJECT: State Symbols/Official State Flagship

DATE: April 01, 2011

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Mason	Roberts	GO	Favorable
2.	Wiggins	Yeatman	EP	Favorable
3.			RC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill designates the Schooner Western Union the official state flagship.

This bill creates section 15.0465 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, no ship is designated as the official state flagship.

Chapter 15, F.S. designates official state emblems. To date there are designations for a state tree, fruit, beverage, anthem, song, shell, stone, gem, wildflower, play, animal, freshwater fish, saltwater fish, marine mammal, saltwater mammal, butterfly, reptile, saltwater reptile, tortoise, air fair, rodeo, festival, moving image center and archive, litter control symbol, pageant, opera, renaissance festival, railroad museums, transportation museum, soil, fiddle contest, band, sports hall of fame, pie, maritime museum, and horse.

The Schooner Western Union is a 130-foot historic sailing vessel of the tall ship class. Construction of the ship began in Grand Cayman, but it was completed in Key West and first launched on April 7, 1939.¹ The Schooner is made of yellow pine and mahogany. For thirty-five years the Schooner served as a cable vessel for the Western Union Telegraph Company, repairing underwater cables throughout the Keys, Cuba, and the Caribbean. Since retiring, the Schooner was used as a charter boat in various events and is now an open maritime museum.

¹ Schooner Western Union Maritime Museum—Boat History, <http://www.schoonerwesternunion.org/key-west/boat-history.htm> (last visited March 25, 2011).

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates section 15.0465, F.S., to designate the Schooner Western Union as the official state flagship.

Section 2 provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of State maintains a list on its website of all official state symbols.

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.
