

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation

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BILL: SB 288

INTRODUCER: Senator Smith

SUBJECT: State Designations

DATE: October 5, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Istler	Rogers	EP	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			FP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 288 redesignates the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park as the Eula Johnson State Park and directs the Department of Environmental Protection to erect suitable markers designating the state park.

**II. Present Situation:**

The lack of public access to beaches for African-Americans in south Florida became a leading civil rights issue in the mid-20th century. In 1946, a delegation from the Negro Professional and Business Men’s League Inc., petitioned the Board of County Commissioners “seeking a public bathing beach for colored people in Broward County.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1954, Broward County acquired a barrier island site and dedicated it as an African-American beach.<sup>2</sup> However, by 1960, there was still no road access to the beach, nor were any facilities constructed.<sup>3</sup> On July 4, 1961, Eula Johnson, the president of the local chapter of the NAACP, led the first of a series of protest wade-ins at Fort Lauderdale beaches.<sup>4</sup> The City of Fort Lauderdale requested an injunction to end the wade-ins. The court denied the city’s request and effectively ended segregation of public beaches in Broward County.<sup>5</sup>

In 1973, the state purchased the land from Broward County.<sup>6</sup> Chapter 76-300 redesignated the Broward Beach State Recreation Area the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in recognition of

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<sup>1</sup> William G. Crawford, Jr., *The Long Hard Fight for Equal Rights: A History of Broward County's Colored Beach and the Fort Lauderdale Beach 'Wade-Ins' of the Summer of 1961*, TEQUESTA: THE JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL ASS'N OF S. FLA., 19, 21 (2007), available at <http://www.historymiamiarchives.org/pdfs/Tequesta2007-p19-51.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 25.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 30.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 34.

<sup>6</sup> DEP, *Welcome to the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park*, <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park-history/Lloyd-Beach> (last visited Sept. 28, 2015).

John U. Lloyd's efforts in the acquisition of the lands.<sup>7</sup> Today, the park encompasses 310 acres, stretching from the Port Everglades Inlet to Dania Beach.<sup>8</sup>

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

The bill redesignates the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park as the Eula Johnson State Park.

The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to erect suitable markers designating the "Eula Johnson State Park."

This bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

### **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:**

None.

#### **C. Government Sector Impact:**

The estimated cost to erect the designated markers required under this bill is indeterminate at this time.

### **VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

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<sup>7</sup> Ch. 76-300, Laws of Fla.

<sup>8</sup> *Supra* note 6.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Law.

**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.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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