

**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 Fiscal Policy

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BILL: SB 288

INTRODUCER: Senator Smith

SUBJECT: State Designations

DATE: November 18, 2015      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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:**

A leading civil rights issue in the mid-20th century was the lack of public access to beaches for African-Americans in south Florida. In 1946, a delegation from the Negro Professional and Business Men’s League, Inc., petitioned the Broward County Commission “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 and no facilities were 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 the white-only Fort Lauderdale beaches.<sup>4</sup> The City of Fort Lauderdale filed a lawsuit requesting an injunction to end the wade-ins.<sup>5</sup> The court denied the city’s request, which effectively ended segregation of public beaches in Broward County.<sup>6</sup>

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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> (last visited Nov. 16, 2015).

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 42.

In 1973, the state purchased the land from Broward County.<sup>7</sup> Chapter 76-300, L.O.F., redesignated the Broward Beach State Recreation Area as the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in recognition of John U. Lloyd's efforts in the acquisition of the lands.<sup>8</sup> Today, the park encompasses 310 acres, stretching from the Port Everglades Inlet to Dania Beach.<sup>9</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."

The bill is effective 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.

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<sup>7</sup> Department of Environmental Protection, *Welcome to the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park*, available at <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park-history/Lloyd-Beach> (last visited Nov. 16, 2015).

<sup>8</sup> Chapter 76-300, L.O.F.

<sup>9</sup> *Supra* note 7.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**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.