

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 Committee on Criminal Justice

BILL: SM 1322

INTRODUCER: Senator Braynon

SUBJECT: Firearm Violence Awareness Month

DATE: March 24, 2017

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Appel	Hrdlicka	CJ	Pre-meeting
2.			JU	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SM 1322 urges Congress to designate the month of September 2017 as “Firearm Awareness Month.”

Legislative memorials are not subject to the Governor’s veto power and are not presented to the Governor for review. Memorials have no force of law, as they are formal petitions to the federal government requesting Congress to act on a particular subject.

II. Present Situation:

Various statistics show that firearm violence is a state and national issue. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, there were 767 homicides, 157 rapes, 17,095 aggravated assaults, and 8,672 robberies involving firearms committed in Florida during 2015.¹ In the last year, there have been two mass shootings in Florida – at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and the Fort Lauderdale airport. The Pulse nightclub incident involved 49 individuals killed and 53 injured.² At the Fort Lauderdale airport, a man killed 5 people and wounded 6

¹ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, statistics under *Firearm Use in Violent Crimes and Manslaughter for Florida by Country and Offense*, available at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/FSAC/Data-Statistics/UCR-Offense-Data.aspx> (last visited March 22, 2017).

² Zambelich, Ariel and Hurt, Allison, *3 Hours In Orlando: Piecing Together An Attack And Its Aftermath*, June 26, 2016, the two-way, NPR, available at <http://www.npr.org/2016/06/16/482322488/orlando-shooting-what-happened-update> (last visited March 22, 2017).

others.³ Additionally, there have been other cases of gun violence, such as the case of an 8 year old girl, Jada Page, killed in a drive by shooting in Miami in August of 2016.⁴

A recent study concluded that the firearm homicide rate in the United States is nearly 25.2 times higher than that of 23 countries that are similar in wealth and population.⁵ The study concluded that the “results show that the United States, which has the most firearms per capita in the world, suffers disproportionately from firearms compared with other high-income countries.”⁶ The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s 2015 Crime in the United States report found that “[f]irearms were used in 71.5 percent of the nation’s murders, 40.8 percent of robberies, and 24.2 percent of aggravated assaults.”⁷

Actual gun violence statistics vary from source to source, but the numbers of incidents and deaths appear to be in the tens of thousands. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence compiled statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2011-2015 and showed that every year approximately 33,800 people are killed and 78,800 people are injured in homicides, aggravated assaults, suicides and suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, and police interventions involving firearms in the United States. In this data, more than 2,600 of the people killed by firearms each year are children age 19 or younger.⁸ The Gun Violence Archive for 2016 reported 58,350 total incidents involving guns, including about 16,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries.⁹ Current statistics for 2017 include a total of 12,754 incidents.¹⁰

Currently only one state has designated a month to firearm awareness. In 2013, New York became the first and only state to recognize Gun Violence Awareness month each June.¹¹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The Senate Memorial urges the Congress of the United States to designate the month of September 2017 as “Firearm Awareness Month.”

³ Associated Press, *Suspect in Fort Lauderdale Airport Shooting Pleads Not Guilty*, January 30, 2017, New York Times, available at https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/arts/esteban-santiago-fort-lauderdale-airport-shooting.html?_r=0 (last visited March 22, 2017).

⁴ Burch, Audra and Rabin, Charles, *Jada Page, 8, dies two days after she was struck by bullet in drive-by shooting*, August 30, 2016, Miami Herald, available at <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/edison-liberty-city/article98954667.html> (last visited March 22, 2017).

⁵ Grinshteyn, Erin and Hemenway, David, *Violent Death Rates: The US Compared with Other High-income OECD Countries, 2010*, March 2016, American Journal of Medicine, Vol. 129, Issue 3, pp. 266-273, available at [http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343\(15\)01030-X/fulltext](http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343(15)01030-X/fulltext) (last visited March 22, 2017).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ FBI, *Latest Crime Statistics Released*, September 26, 2016, available at <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/latest-crime-statistics-released> (last visited March 22, 2017).

⁸ Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, *Key Gun Violence Statistics** available at <http://www.bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics>.

⁹ Gun Violence Archive, *Past Summary Ledgers*, available at <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/past-tolls> (last visited March 22, 2017).

¹⁰ Gun Violence Archive, homepage, available at <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/> (last visited March 22, 2017).

¹¹ GVAM, *About GVAM*, available at <http://www.gunviolenceawarenessmonth.com/about.html> (last visited March 22, 2017).

Copies of the memorial will be sent to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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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:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

None.

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.

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