

By Senator Rodriguez

39-01480B-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to victims of communism; amending s.
3 683.01, F.S.; establishing November 7 as the Victims
4 of Communism legal holiday; requiring the Legislature
5 to annually observe a moment of silence in observance
6 of the victims of communism; providing an effective
7 date.

8
9 WHEREAS, over 100 years have passed since the Bolshevik
10 Revolution in Russia and the formation of the first communist
11 government under Vladimir Lenin, leading to decades of
12 oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the
13 world, and

14 WHEREAS, based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx,
15 communism has proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty,
16 prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given rise to such
17 infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Hồ
18 Chí Minh, and Pol Pot, and

19 WHEREAS, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than
20 100 million people and subjected countless others to
21 exploitation and unspeakable atrocities, with victims
22 representing many different ethnicities, creeds, and
23 backgrounds, and

24 WHEREAS, through false promises of equality and liberation,
25 communist regimes have systematically robbed their own citizens
26 of the rights of freedom of worship, freedom of speech, and
27 freedom of association through coercion, brutality, and fear,
28 and

29 WHEREAS, many victims of communism were persecuted as

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30 political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and
31 others were killed in genocidal state-sponsored purges of
32 undesirable groups, and

33 WHEREAS, in addition to violating basic human rights,
34 communist regimes have suppressed intellectual freedom, cultural
35 life, and self-determination movements in more than 40 nations,
36 NOW, THEREFORE,

37

38 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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40 Section 1. Present paragraphs (q) through (u) of subsection
41 (1) of section 683.01, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
42 paragraphs (r) through (v), respectively, and a new paragraph
43 (q) is added to that subsection, to read:

44 683.01 Legal holidays.—

45 (1) The legal holidays, which are also public holidays, are
46 the following:

47 (q) Victims of Communism Day, November 7.

48 Section 2. The Legislature shall, on the final day of each
49 regular legislative session, observe a moment of silence in
50 observance of the victims of communism.

51 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.