

CHAPTER 98-23

House Bill No. 1749

An act relating to Law Day; creating s. 683.22, F.S.; designating “Law Day” and “Law Week”; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Law Day USA was established by United States Presidential Proclamation in 1958 and reaffirmed by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1961, and

WHEREAS, Law Day in Florida has been declared by proclamation by the state’s Governors since that time, and

WHEREAS, many voluntary bar associations in Florida traditionally have chosen to observe Law Day by a week of activities and events providing services and education to the general public, and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, and Florida in particular, have been the citadels of individual liberty and beacons of hope and opportunity to many millions who have sought our shores, and

WHEREAS, the wellspring of individual freedom and liberty is the body of law that governs us, and

WHEREAS, the Constitutions of the United States and of Florida are the heart of that body of law that guarantees our many freedoms—including freedom of religious belief, freedom to have and hold property inviolate, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of petition, and due process of law, among others, and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 40th 41st annual nationwide observance of “Law Day,” NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 683.22, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.22 Law Day and Law Week.—

(1) May 1 of each year is designated as “Law Day,” and the week starting with the Sunday preceding May 1 is proclaimed “Law Week” in Florida. If May 1 falls on a Sunday, Law Week begins on that day. During the week, all residents, schools, businesses, and clubs and the mass media are invited to commemorate the role of law in our lives. The theme to be celebrated will be determined by the Supreme Court of Florida and publicized and supported by the lawyers of Florida through The Florida Bar.

(2) The Governor may issue annually a proclamation celebrating these events, with a theme to be determined by the Supreme Court of Florida and supported by the lawyers of Florida through The Florida Bar.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 27, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 27, 1998.