

CHAPTER 2002-10

House Bill No. 1283

An act relating to Parents' and Children's Day; amending s. 683.17, F.S.; renaming "Children's Day" as "Parents' and Children's Day"; changing the designated day for the celebration of Parents' and Children's Day; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature intends that Florida Parents' and Children's Day become the model for a National Parents' and Children's Day, and

WHEREAS, the public awareness component of Parents' and Children's Day is designed to encourage public and private entities to demonstrate Florida's support of child well-being, and

WHEREAS, the key indicators of child well-being include children who are healthy, safe, and ready to learn; families that are stable, nurturing, and self-sufficient; and communities that are supportive of families raising children, and

WHEREAS, every parent in Florida should have access to prenatal and infant health care; training and education in parenting skills to help build healthy families; high-quality child care and early learning opportunities; safe and enriching after-school experiences; and access to delinquency prevention programs and services to treat children with problems, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 683.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

683.17 Parents' and Children's Day.—~~The first Sunday second Tuesday~~ in April of each year is designated as Parents' and Children's Day. On this day local communities and families, together with public officials, schools, private organizations, and all citizens, are encouraged to celebrate the lives and blessings of Florida's children with love, respect, gratitude, and encouragement; both to acknowledge our Florida's children as the resource giving our state ~~it~~ the greatest hope of future excellence; to listen to children and ~~to reaffirm our shared their~~ commitment to help them Florida's children develop their unique qualities, strengths, and potential, resulting in greater productive capacity and enlightened citizenship; and to observe this day with appropriate activities, ceremonies, public awareness materials, and programs. All citizens of the state are encouraged to wear a white ribbon on Parents' and Children's Day which shall indicate that our children are considered to be special gifts and are valued for their part in the circle of life.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor March 15, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 15, 2002.