

CHAPTER 2012-47

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 924

An act relating to special observances; creating s. 683.185, F.S.; designating April 7 of each year as “Everglades Day”; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, as one of the largest wetlands in the world, the Everglades ecosystem provides water supplies to one in three Floridians and is an important aspect of South Florida’s tourism, agricultural, real estate, and recreational economies, and

WHEREAS, Everglades National Park, which draws an average of 1 million visitors annually, will celebrate its 65th anniversary in 2012 and has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance in recognition of both its local and global significance, and

WHEREAS, continued restoration and preservation of the greater Everglades ecosystem, which originally spanned from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, are needed to protect the habitat of many species of animals, including 67 endangered species, and

WHEREAS, the significant economic and ecological importance of the Everglades ecosystem is an invaluable part of Florida’s heritage and its future, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 683.185, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.185 Everglades Day.—April 7 of each year is designated as “Everglades Day.”

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2012.