

# Florida Department of Education

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 1160

**Bill Title:** Building and Facility Designations

**Bill Sponsor:** Governmental Operations Committee, Higher Education Committee, and Senators Dockery and Hill

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007

**DOE Contact:** Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations, (850) 245-0406

---

## **Executive Summary:**

This act authorizes the naming of the Department of Education office at 921 N. Davis Street in Jacksonville as the "Mary L. Singleton Education Office" and directs the Department of Education to erect suitable markers making the building designation.

The act also authorizes the naming of a number of university buildings, an administration building at the Florida Hospital at Chattahoochee, and a nursing center in Orlando for other individuals, some of whom are living.

A native Floridian, Ms. Mary L. Singleton was born and raised in Jacksonville. She graduated from Boylan-Haven Industrial Training School in 1943. After her high school graduation, Ms. Singleton attended Hampton Institute in Virginia, majoring in horticulture. She left Hampton Institute and later graduated from Florida A & M University where she received her B.S. in 1949. She returned to Jacksonville and taught at Matthew W. Gilbert Junior-Senior High School. She married Isadore Singleton in 1955.

Ms. Singleton was appointed to the Local Government Study Commission of Duval County by Governor Farris Bryant in 1965. She was elected to serve on the city council of Jacksonville in 1967 and was one of the first two women elected to the Jacksonville City Council. Singleton then was elected to the House of Representatives in 1972. She remained in office until 1976 when she was appointed Director of Florida's Division of Elections, making her the highest ranking African American in the executive branch of state government. She resigned and was then appointed Director of the Department of Banking and Finance's Division of Administration in 1979, where she worked until her death in 1980. Throughout her career as a public servant, Ms. Singleton brought greater attention to and championed the needs of children through quality childcare services and increased funding for early childhood education programs.

## **General Implementation Timeline:**

At any time after July 1, 2007, the Commissioner of Education should authorize the purchase of suitable markers making the building designation.