

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

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BILL: CS/SB 606

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee and Senator Garcia

SUBJECT: Boating Safety

DATE: March 7, 2022

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment - 981283

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 981283 requires the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)-approved boating safety education course or temporary certificate examination to include components regarding the proper use and lifesaving benefits of an engine cutoff switch for motorboats and personal watercraft, and the danger associated with a passenger riding on a seat back, gunwale, transom, bow, motor cover, or any other vessel area not designed and designated by the manufacturer for seating; a passenger falling overboard; operating a vessel with a person in the water near the vessel; starting a vessel with the engine in gear; and leaving the vessel running when a passenger is boarding or disembarking.

The amendment requires FWC to include the components in boating safety education campaigns and in educational materials produced by FWC, as appropriate.

The amendment requires the operator of a vessel used in the instruction of a water sport or activity to use an engine cutoff switch and wear an operative link to the switch when a person participating in the water sport or activity is in the water.