

Bill No. CS for SB 1944

Amendment No.

<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Senator Bronson moved the following amendment:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

On page 12, between lines 21 and 22,

insert:

Section 11. Effective October 1, 1999, section 380.275, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

380.275 Beaches and coastal areas; posting of rip current warning signs.--

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a cooperative effort among state agencies and local governments be developed to plan for and assist in the placement of rip current warning signs along the public beaches and coastal areas of the state. A rip current is a strong surface current of water flowing out past the surf zone which can pull even the strongest swimmer into deeper water. Rip currents pose a significant danger of drowning to tourists and the public, and it is therefore important to warn the public to be cautious in coastal areas where rip currents can occur.

(2) The Department of Community Affairs, through the

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1 Florida Coastal Management Program, shall direct and
2 coordinate the rip current warning sign program, which shall
3 be a program to require the placement of rip current warning
4 signs in areas that pose a significant risk to the public as a
5 result of rip currents. Signs shall be located where the
6 public has established an access way to a beach or coastal
7 area.

8 (3) The department shall develop a uniform rip current
9 warning sign for use at any public beach or along any coastal
10 area where there may be a significant threat to the public as
11 a result of rip currents, to be placed, insofar as is
12 practicable, wherever the public has established access ways
13 to the beach.

14 (4) The department shall, within the limits of
15 appropriations available to it for such purposes, establish
16 and operate a program to fund the placement of rip current
17 warning signs in areas where the public has established an
18 access way to a beach or coastal area that may be subject to a
19 significant threat of dangerous rip currents and therefore may
20 pose a hazard to the public. The department shall coordinate
21 efforts to determine the locations that local governments
22 consider appropriate for placement of rip current warning
23 signs. For these locations, the department shall make rip
24 current warning signs available to the governing body of any
25 county or municipality in such quantity as is determined by
26 the department. The department shall also coordinate with the
27 local governing body the distribution and erection of rip
28 current warning signs, whenever there is a request for such
29 assistance.

30 (5) The department shall adopt such rules and forms as
31 are necessary to carry out the purposes of this section and to

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1 ensure that all projects to which assistance is rendered under
2 this section are for the purpose of providing and erecting rip
3 current warning signs.

4 (6) The state, state agencies, local governments, and
5 local government agencies shall not be held liable for any
6 injury caused by the placement or maintenance of rip current
7 warning signs or the failure to install or maintain rip
8 current signs as provided by this section.

9
10 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

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12

13 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

14 And the title is amended as follows:

15 On page 2, line 1, after the semicolon

16

17 insert:

18 creating s. 380.275, F.S.; providing for a
19 cooperative effort among state agencies and
20 local governments to plan for and assist in the
21 placement of rip current warning signs;
22 providing that the Department of Community
23 Affairs shall direct and coordinate the
24 program; requiring the development of a uniform
25 rip current warning sign; authorizing the
26 department to coordinate the location,
27 distribution, and erection of rip current
28 warning signs; providing for rules; limiting
29 the liability of participating governmental
30 entities;

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