

By Senator Sullivan

22-465-99

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to watersports; amending s.
327.37, F.S.; providing safety rules for towing
parasails from vessels; prescribing safety
regulations for persons engaged in waterskiing,
parasailing, aquaplaning, or similar
activities; prohibiting parasailing or
operating a boat towing a parasail in specified
waters; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 327.37, Florida Statutes, is
amended to read:

327.37 Water skis, parasails, and aquaplanes
regulated.--

(1)(a) A ~~No~~ person may not ~~shall~~ operate a vessel on
any waters of this state towing a person on water skis, or an
aquaplane, or similar device unless there is in such vessel a
person, in addition to the operator, in a position to observe
the progress of the person being towed, or the vessel is
equipped with a wide-angle rear view mirror mounted in such
manner as to permit the operator of the vessel to observe the
progress of the person being towed. This subsection does not
apply to class A motorboats operated by the person being towed
and designed to be incapable of carrying the operator in the
motorboat.

(b) A person may not operate a vessel on any waters of
this state towing a person attached to a parasail or similar
device unless there is a person in the vessel, in addition to
the operator, in a position to observe the progress of the

1 person being towed. A wide-angle rear view mirror is not
2 acceptable for this purpose.

3 (2)(a) A ~~No~~ person may not ~~shall~~ engage in water
4 skiing, parasailing, aquaplaning, or similar activity at any
5 time between the hours from one-half hour after sunset to
6 one-half hour before sunrise.

7 (b) A ~~No~~ person may not ~~shall~~ engage in water skiing,
8 parasailing, or aquaplaning, or any similar activity unless
9 such person is wearing a type I, type II, ~~or~~ type III, or
10 noninflatable type V personal flotation device approved by the
11 United States Coast Guard.

12 (3) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) do not
13 apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a
14 person preparing to participate or participating in an
15 official regatta, boat race, marine parade, tournament, or
16 exhibition held pursuant to s. 327.48.

17 (4) A ~~No~~ person may not ~~shall~~ operate or manipulate
18 any vessel, tow rope, or other device by which the direction
19 or location of water skis, parasail, aquaplane, innertube,
20 sled, or similar device may be affected or controlled, in such
21 a way as to cause the water skis, parasail, aquaplane,
22 innertube, sled, or similar device or any person thereon to
23 collide or strike against or be likely to collide or strike
24 against any vessel, bridge, wharf, pier, dock, buoy, platform,
25 piling, channel marker, or other object, except slalom buoys,
26 ski jumps, or like objects used normally in competitive or
27 recreational skiing.

28 (5) A person may not operate any vessel towing a
29 parasail or engage in parasailing within 100 feet of the
30 marked channel of the Florida Intercoastal Waterway.

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Establishes safety regulations for persons towing parasails from vessels. Prescribes regulations for persons engaged in water skiing, parasailing, aquaplaning, or similar activities. Prohibits parasailing or operating a boat towing a parasail in specified areas of the Florida Intercoastal Waterway.