Florida House of Representatives - 2000 By Representative Futch

| 1 | A bill to be entitled |
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| 2 | An act relating to the placement of rip current |
| 3 | warning signs; providing a short title; |
| 4 | creating s. 380.275, F.S.; providing for a |
| 5 | cooperative effort among state agencies and |
| 6 | local governments to plan for and assist in the |
| 7 | placement of rip current warning signs; |
| 8 | providing that the Department of Community |
| 9 | Affairs shall direct and coordinate the |
| 10 | program; requiring the development of a uniform |
| 11 | rip current warning sign; authorizing the |
| 12 | department to coordinate the distribution and |
| 13 | erection of rip current warning signs; |
| 14 | providing for rules; limiting the liability of |
| 15 | participating governmental entities; providing |
| 16 | an effective date. |
| 17 | |
| 18 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: |
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| 20 | Section 1. This act may be cited as the |
| 21 | "McGriff-Mannix Act" in honor of James McGriff and Brian |
| 22 | Mannix, who lost their lives as a result of rip currents. |
| 23 | Section 2. Section 380.275, Florida Statutes, is |
| 24 | created to read: |
| 25 | 380.275 Beaches and coastal areas; posting of rip |
| 26 | current warning signs |
| 27 | (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a |
| 28 | cooperative effort among state agencies and local governments |
| 29 | be developed to plan for and assist in the placement of rip |
| 30 | current warning signs along the public beaches and coastal |
| 31 | areas of the state. A rip current is a strong surface current |
| | 1 |

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of water flowing out past the surf zone, which can pull even 1 2 the strongest swimmer into deeper water. Rip currents pose a 3 significant danger of drowning to tourists and the general public, and it is therefore important to inform the public to 4 5 be cautious in coastal areas where rip currents can occur. 6 (2) The Department of Community Affairs, through the 7 Florida Coastal Management Program, shall direct and 8 coordinate the rip current warning sign program, which shall 9 be a program to encourage the placement of rip current warning signs in areas which may pose a significant risk to the public 10 11 as a result of rip currents. Signs may be located where the 12 public has established an access way to a beach or coastal 13 area. 14 (3) The department shall develop a uniform rip current 15 warning sign for use at any public beach or along any coastal 16 area where there may be a significant threat to the public as 17 a result of rip currents, to be placed, insofar as is practicable, wherever the public has established access ways 18 19 to the beach. 20 The department is authorized, within the limits of (4) appropriations available to it for such purposes, to establish 21 22 and operate a program to encourage the placement of rip 23 current warning signs in areas where the public has established an access way to a beach or coastal area that may 24 be subject to a significant threat of dangerous rip currents 25 26 and therefore may pose a hazard to the public. The department 27 shall also coordinate with the local governing body the 28 distribution and erection of rip current warning signs, 29 whenever there is a request for such assistance. (5) The department is authorized to adopt rules to 30 implement this section. 31

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(6) The state, state agencies, local governments, and local government agencies shall not be held liable for any injury caused by the placement or maintenance of rip current warning signs or the failure to install or maintain rip current signs as provided by this section. Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2000. HOUSE SUMMARY Substantively identical to a bill which passed the House in the 1999 Regular Session. Provides for a cooperative effort among state agencies and local governments to plan for and assist in the placement of rip current warning signs, under the direction of the Department of Community Affairs. Requires the development of a uniform rip current warning sign and authorizes the department to coordinate the distribution and erection of such signs. Limits the liability of participating governmental entities.

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HB 273