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By the Council for Ready Infrastructure and Representatives Harrington, Allen, Mayfield, Green, Needelman, Machek, Kottkamp, Clarke, Haridopolos, Harrell, Maygarden, Brummer, Baxley, Arza, Trovillion, Kallinger, Kendrick, Dockery, Littlefield, Kilmer and Paul

A bill to be entitled An act relating to the protection of manatees; amending s. 370.12, F.S.; requiring notice to counties where manatee protection zones or manatee speed zones may be imposed by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; providing for establishment of local rule review committees; providing duties and responsibilities of the counties, committees, and commission; providing for committee reports and recommendations; providing that written reports submitted to the commission by the committees, and commission staff responses, shall be part of the rulemaking record; clarifying the commission's authority to provide permitting agencies with comments relating to the protection of manatees; requiring commission staff to begin reviewing all existing manatee protection rules at a future specified date; providing for review by local rule review committees; providing a rule review schedule; revising the circumstances under which the commission may post and regulate motorboat speeds to protect manatees; revising the circumstances under which a local government may regulate motorboat speed and operation on waters within its jurisdiction by ordinance; eliminating provisions requiring creation of local manatee protection committees for resolving certain disputes involving such ordinances; requiring the commission to develop 1 a measurable biological goal that defines 2 manatee recovery, by a specified date; amending 3 s. 327.41, F.S.; correcting a cross reference; providing legislative intent that the 4 5 provisions of the act not be retroactively applied except as otherwise provided; providing 6 7 an exemption; providing effective dates.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 370.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

370.12 Marine animals; regulation.--

- (2) PROTECTION OF MANATEES OR SEA COWS.--
- (a) This subsection shall be known and may be cited as the "Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act."
- (b) The State of Florida is hereby declared to be a refuge and sanctuary for the manatee, the "Florida state marine mammal."
- (c) Whenever the Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission is satisfied that the interest of science will be subserved, and that the application for a permit to possess a manatee or sea cow (Trichechus manatus) is for a scientific or propagational purpose and should be granted, and after concurrence by the United States Department of the Interior, the commission may grant to any person making such application a special permit to possess a manatee or sea cow, which permit shall specify the exact number which shall be maintained in captivity.
- (d) Except as may be authorized by the terms of a 31 valid state permit issued pursuant to paragraph (c) or by the

terms of a valid federal permit, it is unlawful for any person at any time, by any means, or in any manner intentionally or negligently to annoy, molest, harass, or disturb or attempt to molest, harass, or disturb any manatee; injure or harm or attempt to injure or harm any manatee; capture or collect or attempt to capture or collect any manatee; pursue, hunt, wound, or kill or attempt to pursue, hunt, wound, or kill any manatee; or possess, literally or constructively, any manatee or any part of any manatee.

(e) Any gun, net, trap, spear, harpoon, boat of any kind, aircraft, automobile of any kind, other motorized vehicle, chemical, explosive, electrical equipment, scuba or other subaquatic gear, or other instrument, device, or apparatus of any kind or description used in violation of any provision of paragraph (d) may be forfeited upon conviction. The foregoing provisions relating to seizure and forfeiture of vehicles, vessels, equipment, or supplies do not apply when such vehicles, vessels, equipment, or supplies are owned by, or titled in the name of, innocent parties; and such provisions shall not vitiate any valid lien, retain title contract, or chattel mortgage on such vehicles, vessels, equipment, or supplies if such lien, retain title contract, or chattel mortgage is property of public record at the time of the seizure.

## (f) Effective June 15, 2002:

1. Except for emergency rules adopted under s. 120.54, all proposed rules of the commission for which a notice of intended agency action is filed proposing to govern the speed and operation of motorboats for purposes of manatee protection shall be submitted to the counties in which the proposed rules will take effect for review by local rule review committees.

- 2. No less than 60 days prior to filing a notice of rule development in the Florida Administrative Weekly as provided in s. 120.54(3)(a), the commission shall notify the counties for which a rule to regulate the speed and operation of motorboats for the protection of manatees is proposed. A county so notified shall establish a local rule review committee, or several counties may combine local rule review committees.
- 3. The county commission of each county in which a rule to regulate the speed and operation of motorboats for the protection of manatees is proposed shall designate a local rule review committee that represents a balance of fishers, boaters, water skiers, other traditional waterway users, and environmental interests. A county commission may designate an existing advisory group as the local rule review committee so long as the membership of the advisory group maintains a balance of fishers, boaters, water skiers, other traditional waterway users, and environmental interests.
- 4. The county shall invite other state, federal, county, municipal, or local agency representatives to participate as nonvoting members of the local rule review committee.
- 5. The county shall provide logistical and administrative staff support to the local rule review committee and may request technical assistance from the commission staff.
- <u>6. Each local rule review committee shall elect a</u> chair and recording secretary from among its voting members.
- 7. Commission staff shall submit the draft rule and supporting data used to develop the draft rule to the local rule review committees.

- 8. The local rule review committees shall have 60 days from the date of receipt of the draft rule to submit a written report to commission members and staff. The local rule review committees may use supporting data supplied by the commission, as well as public testimony which may be collected by the committee, to develop the written report. The report may contain recommended changes to proposed manatee protection zones or speed zones, including a recommendation that no rule be adopted, if that is the finding of the committee.
- 9. Prior to filing a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Florida Administrative Weekly as provided in s.

  120.54(3)(a), the commission staff shall provide a written response to the local rule review committee reports to the appropriate counties and to the commission members.
- 10. In conducting a review of the proposed manatee protection rule, the local rule review committees may address such factors as whether the best available science justifies the proposed rule, whether seasonal zones are warranted, and such other factors as may be necessary to balance manatee protection and public access to and use of the waters being regulated under the proposed rule.
- 11. The written reports submitted by the local rule review committees shall contain a majority opinion. If the majority opinion is not unanimous, a minority opinion shall also be included.
- 12. The members of the commission shall fully consider any timely submitted written report submitted by a local rule review committee prior to authorizing commission staff to move forward with proposed rulemaking and shall fully consider any subsequent reports of the committee prior to adoption of a final rule. The written reports of the local rule review

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committee and the written responses of the commission staff shall be part of the rulemaking record and may be submitted as evidence in any proceeding relating to a rule proposed or adopted pursuant to this subsection.

(g)(f) In order to protect manatees or sea cows from harmful collisions with motorboats or from harassment, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission is authorized to provide a permitting agency with comments shall adopt rules under chapter 120 regarding the expansion of existing, or construction of new, marine facilities and mooring or docking slips, by the addition or construction of five or more powerboat slips. The commission shall adopt rules under chapter 120 to regulate, and regulating the operation and speed of motorboat traffic-only where manatee sightings are frequent and the best available science, which may include, but is not limited to, manatee surveys and available studies of food sources and water depths, justifies the conclusion that manatees it can be generally assumed, based on available scientific information, that they inhabit these areas on a regular or continuous basis:

- In Lee County: the entire Orange River, including the Tice Florida Power and Light Corporation discharge canal and adjoining waters of the Caloosahatchee River within 1 mile of the confluence of the Orange and Caloosahatchee Rivers.
- In Brevard County: those portions of the Indian River within three-fourths of a mile of the Orlando Utilities Commission Delespine power plant effluent and the Florida Power and Light Frontenac power plant effluents.
- In Indian River County: the discharge canals of the Vero Beach Municipal Power Plant and connecting waters within 31  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  miles thereof.

- 4. In St. Lucie County: the discharge of the Henry D. King Municipal Electric Station and connecting waters within 1 mile thereof.
- 5. In Palm Beach County: the discharges of the Florida Power and Light Riviera Beach power plant and connecting waters within 1 1/2 miles thereof.
- 6. In Broward County: the discharge canal of the Florida Power and Light Port Everglades power plant and connecting waters within 1 1/2 miles thereof and the discharge canal of the Florida Power and Light Fort Lauderdale power plant and connecting waters within 2 miles thereof. For purposes of ensuring the physical safety of boaters in a sometimes turbulent area, the area from the easternmost edge of the authorized navigation project of the intracoastal waterway east through the Port Everglades Inlet is excluded from this regulatory zone.
- 7. In Citrus County: headwaters of the Crystal River, commonly referred to as King's Bay, and the Homosassa River.
- 8. In Volusia County: Blue Springs Run and connecting waters of the St. Johns River within 1 mile of the confluence of Blue Springs and the St. Johns River; and Thompson Creek, Strickland Creek, Dodson Creek, and the Tomoka River.
- 9. In Hillsborough County: that portion of the Alafia River from the main shipping channel in Tampa Bay to U.S. Highway 41.
- 10. In Sarasota County: the Venice Inlet and connecting waters within 1 mile thereof, including Lyons Bay, Donna Bay, Roberts Bay, and Hatchett Creek, excluding the waters of the intracoastal waterway and the right-of-way bordering the centerline of the intracoastal waterway.

- 11. In Collier County: within the Port of Islands, within section 9, township 52 south, range 28 east, and certain unsurveyed lands, all east-west canals and the north-south canals to the southerly extent of the intersecting east-west canals which lie southerly of the centerline of U.S. Highway 41.
- 12. In Manatee County: that portion of the Manatee River east of the west line of section 17, range 19 east, township 34 south; the Braden River south of the north line and east of the west line of section 29, range 18 east, township 34 south; Terra Ceia Bay and River, east of the west line of sections 26 and 35 of range 17 east, township 33 south, and east of the west line of section 2, range 17 east, township 34 south; and Bishop Harbor east of the west line of section 13, range 17 east, township 33 south.
- 13. In <u>Miami-Dade</u> Dade County: those portions of Black Creek lying south and east of the water control dam, including all boat basins and connecting canals within 1 mile of the dam.
- (h)(g) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 regulating the operation and speed of motorboat traffic only where manatee sightings are frequent and the best available science, which may include, but is not limited to, manatee surveys and available studies of food sources and water depths, justifies the conclusion that manatees it can be generally assumed that they inhabit these areas on a regular or continuous basis within that portion of the Indian River between the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County and the Jupiter Inlet in Palm Beach County and. In addition, the commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 regulating the operation and speed of

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motorboat traffic only where manatee sightings are frequent and it can be generally assumed that they inhabit these areas on a regular or continuous basis within the Loxahatchee River in Palm Beach and Martin Counties, including the north and southwest forks thereof. A limited lane or corridor providing for reasonable motorboat speeds may be identified and designated within this area.

(i) (h) The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 regulating the operation and speed of motorboat traffic only where manatee sightings are frequent and the best available science, which may include, but is not limited to, manatee surveys and available studies of food sources and water depths, justifies the conclusion that manatees it can be generally assumed that they inhabit these areas on a regular or continuous basis within the Withlacoochee River and its tributaries in Citrus and Levy Counties. The specific areas to be regulated include the Withlacoochee River and the U.S. 19 bridge westward to a line between U.S. Coast Guard markers number 33 and number 34 at the mouth of the river, including all side channels and coves along that portion of the river; Bennets' Creek from its beginning to its confluence with the Withlacoochee River; Bird's Creek from its beginning to its confluence with the Withlacoochee River; and the two dredged canal systems on the north side of the Withlacoochee River southwest of Yankeetown. A limited lane or corridor providing for reasonable motorboat speeds may be identified and designated within this area.

(j)1. Beginning February 1, 2004, commission staff shall initiate a review of all currently existing rules that establish manatee protection zones, manatee speed zones, or 31 "no access" or "limited entry" zones to determine their

continued effectiveness. All rules eligible for review under this paragraph shall also be reviewed by the local rule review committees established in paragraph (f). Local rule review committee written reports on the rules under review shall be reviewed by commission staff and commission members and shall be considered part of the rulemaking record.

- 2. To accommodate commission staff workload limitations, the rule review schedule shall be as follows:
  - a. Brevard County and one other county in year one.
- b. At least two counties in each succeeding year until manatee protection rules for all remaining counties, including Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Citrus, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, Martin, Indian River, and St. Lucie Counties, have been reviewed.

The rule review schedule may be accelerated at the discretion of commission staff. If a county rule review results in a rule challenge, the initiation of subsequent county rule reviews may be delayed for no more than 18 months or until resolution of the rule challenge, whichever occurs first.

(k) (i) If any new power plant is constructed or other source of warm water discharge is discovered within the state which attracts a concentration of manatees or sea cows, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission is directed to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 regulating the operation and speed of motorboat traffic within the area of such discharge. Such rules shall designate a zone which is sufficient in size, and which shall remain in effect for a sufficient period of time, to protect the manatees or sea cows.

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(1)(j) For any manatee protection or speed zone rule adopted pursuant to this subsection, it is the intent of the Legislature through adoption of this paragraph to allow the Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission to post and regulate boat speeds only where the best available science, which may include, but is not limited to, manatee surveys and available studies of food sources and water depths, justifies the conclusion that manatees manatee sightings are frequent and it can be generally assumed that they inhabit waters of the state these areas on a regular or continuous basis. The commission may post and regulate boat speeds on a seasonal basis in areas where the best available science, which may include, but is not limited to, manatee surveys and available studies of food sources and water depths, justifies the conclusion that manatees inhabit such areas on a seasonal basis. It is not the intent of the Legislature to permit the commission to post and regulate boat speeds generally in the waters of the state above-described inlets, bays, rivers, creeks, thereby unduly interfering with the rights of fishers, boaters, and water skiers, and other traditional waterway users who are using the areas for recreational and commercial purposes. The Legislature further intends that the commission may identify and designate limited lanes or corridors providing for reasonable motorboat speeds within waters of the state whenever such lanes and corridors are consistent with manatee protection and recovery goals may be identified and designated within these areas.  $(m)\frac{(k)}{(k)}$  The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 regulating the operation and speed of motorboat

traffic all year around within Turkey Creek and its

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tributaries and within Manatee Cove in Brevard County. The specific areas to be regulated consist of:

- 1. A body of water which starts at Melbourne-Tillman Drainage District structure MS-1, section 35, township 28 south, range 37 east, running east to include all natural waters and tributaries of Turkey Creek, section 26, township 28 south, range 37 east, to the confluence of Turkey Creek and the Indian River, section 24, township 28 south, range 37 east, including all lagoon waters of the Indian River bordered on the west by Palm Bay Point, the north by Castaway Point, the east by the four immediate spoil islands, and the south by Cape Malabar, thence northward along the shoreline of the Indian River to Palm Bay Point.
- A triangle-shaped body of water forming a cove (commonly referred to as Manatee Cove) on the east side of the Banana River, with northern boundaries beginning and running parallel to the east-west cement bulkhead located 870 feet south of SR 520 Relief Bridge in Cocoa Beach and with western boundaries running in line with the City of Cocoa Beach channel markers 121 and 127 and all waters east of these boundaries in section 34, township 24 south, range 37 east; the center coordinates of this cove are 28°20'14" north, 80°35'17" west.
- (n)(1) The commission shall promulgate regulations pursuant to chapter 120 relating to the operation and speed of motor boat traffic in port waters with due regard to the safety requirements of such traffic and the navigational hazards related to the movement of commercial vessels.
- (o) (m) The commission may designate by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 120 other portions of state waters where 31 | manatees are frequently sighted and the best available

science, which may include, but is not limited to, manatee surveys and available studies of food sources and water depths, justifies the conclusion it can be assumed that manatees inhabit such waters periodically or continuously. Upon designation of such waters, the commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 to regulate motorboat speed and operation which are necessary to protect manatees from harmful collisions with motorboats and from harassment. The commission may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 to protect manatee habitat, such as seagrass beds, within such waters from destruction by boats or other human activity. Such rules shall not protect noxious aquatic plants subject to control under s. 369.20.

(p)(n) The commission may designate, by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 120, limited areas as a safe haven for manatees to rest, feed, reproduce, give birth, or nurse undisturbed by human activity. Access by motor boat to private residences, boat houses, and boat docks through these areas by residents, and their authorized guests, who must cross one of these areas to have water access to their property is permitted when the motorboat is operated at idle speed, no wake.

(q)(o) Except in the marked navigation channel of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway as defined in s. 327.02 and the area within 100 feet of such channel, a local government may regulate, by ordinance, motorboat speed and operation on waters within its jurisdiction only where the best available science, which may include, but is not limited to, manatee surveys and available studies of food sources and water depths, justifies the conclusion that manatees inhabit these areas on a regular or continuous basis where manatees are

frequently sighted and can be generally assumed to inhabit periodically or continuously. However, such an ordinance may not take effect until it has been reviewed and approved by the commission according to the criteria in this paragraph. the commission and a local government disagree on the provisions of an ordinance, a local manatee protection committee must be formed to review the technical data of the commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and to resolve conflicts regarding the ordinance. The manatee protection committee must be comprised of:

- 1. A representative of the commission;
- 2. A representative of the county;
- 3. A representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
- 4. A representative of a local marine-related business;
  - 5. A representative of the Save the Manatee Club;
  - 6. A local fisher;
- 7. An affected property owner; and
- 20 A representative of the Florida Marine Patrol.

If local and state regulations are established for the same area, the more restrictive regulation shall prevail.

 $(r)\frac{(p)}{(p)}$  The commission shall evaluate the need for use of fenders to prevent crushing of manatees between vessels (100' or larger) and bulkheads or wharves in counties where manatees have been crushed by such vessels. For areas in counties where evidence indicates that manatees have been crushed between vessels and bulkheads or wharves, the commission shall:

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- 1. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 120 requiring use of fenders for construction of future bulkheads or wharves; and
- 2. Implement a plan and time schedule to require retrofitting of existing bulkheads or wharves consistent with port bulkhead or wharf repair or replacement schedules.

The fenders shall provide sufficient standoff from the bulkhead or wharf under maximum operational compression to ensure that manatees cannot be crushed between the vessel and the bulkhead or wharf.

 $\underline{(s)(q)}$  Any violation of a restricted area established by this subsection, or established by rule pursuant to chapter 120 or ordinance pursuant to this subsection, shall be considered a violation of the boating laws of this state and shall be charged on a uniform boating citation as provided in s. 327.74, except as otherwise provided in paragraph $\underline{(u)(s)}$ . Any person who refuses to post a bond or accept and sign a uniform boating citation shall, as provided in s. 327.73(3), be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(t) No later than February 15, 2003, the commission, working in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall develop a measurable biological goal that defines manatee recovery. This measurable biological goal shall be used by the commission in its development of management plans or work plans and shall be used by the commission and the local rule review committees to evaluate the effectiveness of existing and proposed manatee protection rules and to determine the progress in achieving manatee recovery.

 $\underline{(u)(r)}$  Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, any person violating the provisions of this subsection or any rule or ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. 370.021(1)(a) or (b).

- 1. Any person operating a vessel in excess of a posted speed limit shall be guilty of a civil infraction, punishable as provided in s. 327.73, except as provided in subparagraph 2.
- 2. This paragraph does not apply to persons violating restrictions governing "No Entry" zones or "Motorboat Prohibited" zones, who, if convicted, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. 370.021(1)(a) or (b), or, if such violation demonstrates blatant or willful action, may be found guilty of harassment as described in paragraph (d).

Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 327.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

327.41 Uniform waterway regulatory markers.--

(2) Any county or municipality which has been granted a restricted area designation, pursuant to s. 327.46, for a portion of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway within its jurisdiction or which has adopted a restricted area by ordinance pursuant to s. 327.22, s. 327.60, or s. 370.12(2)(q)(o), or any other governmental entity which has legally established a restricted area, may apply to the commission for permission to place regulatory markers within the restricted area.

Section 3. <u>The Legislature intends that the provisions</u>
of this act may not be retroactively applied to manatee
protection rules existing on the effective date of this act

unless the commission proposes to amend or revise such rules after this act takes effect. Proposed rules that are currently subject to an administrative challenge that is pending as of February 12, 2002, are not subject to the provisions of this act until reviewed pursuant to the rule review schedule established in s. 370.12(2)(j), Florida Statutes, as created by this act, unless a court or administrative hearing officer should find such proposed rule to be invalid. Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.