

By Senator Cowin

20-231A-04

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to vessel licenses; amending s.  
3           372.09, F.S.; providing that revenues from  
4           freshwater fishing vessel licenses be deposited  
5           into the State Game Trust Fund; amending s.  
6           372.57, F.S.; creating fishing vessel licenses  
7           for persons taking freshwater fish or carrying  
8           customers for the purpose of taking freshwater  
9           fish; providing for license fees; reenacting s.  
10          372.562(2)(i) and (j), F.S., relating to  
11          certain exemptions from a requirement that a  
12          person obtain a fishing license or permit, to  
13          incorporate the amendment to s. 372.57, F.S.,  
14          in references thereto; providing an effective  
15          date.

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

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19           Section 1. Section 372.09, Florida Statutes, is  
20          amended to read:  
21           372.09 State Game Trust Fund.--The funds resulting  
22          from the operation of the commission and from the  
23          administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to  
24          birds, game, fur-bearing animals, freshwater fish, reptiles,  
25          and amphibians, including funds resulting from the sale of  
26          freshwater vessel licenses, together with any other funds  
27          specifically provided for such purposes shall constitute the  
28          State Game Trust Fund and shall be used by the commission as  
29          it shall deem fit in carrying out the provisions hereof and  
30          for no other purposes. The commission may not obligate itself  
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1 beyond the current resources of the State Game Trust Fund  
2 unless specifically so authorized by the Legislature.

3 Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 372.57, Florida  
4 Statutes, is amended to read:

5 372.57 Recreational licenses, permits, and  
6 authorization numbers; fees established.--

7 (7) VESSEL LICENSES.--

8 (a) A ~~No~~ person may not operate any vessel wherein a  
9 fee is paid, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of  
10 taking, attempting to take, or possessing any saltwater or  
11 freshwater fish for noncommercial purposes unless she or he  
12 has obtained a license for each vessel for that purpose, and  
13 has paid the license fee pursuant to paragraph ~~paragraphs~~ (b),  
14 ~~and~~ paragraph (c), or paragraph (d) for such vessel.

15 (b) A license for any person who operates any vessel  
16 licensed to carry more than 10 customers, wherein a fee is  
17 paid, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of taking  
18 or attempting to take saltwater or freshwater fish, is \$800  
19 per year. The license must be kept aboard the vessel at all  
20 times.

21 (c)1. A license for any person who operates any vessel  
22 licensed to carry no more than 10 customers, or for any person  
23 licensed to operate any vessel carrying 6 or fewer customers,  
24 wherein a fee is paid, either directly or indirectly, for the  
25 purpose of taking or attempting to take saltwater or  
26 freshwater fish, is \$400 per year.

27 2. A license for any person licensed to operate any  
28 vessel carrying 6 or fewer customers but who operates a vessel  
29 carrying 4 or fewer customers, wherein a fee is paid, either  
30 directly or indirectly, for the purpose of taking or  
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1 attempting to take saltwater or freshwater fish, is \$200 per  
2 year. The license must be kept aboard the vessel at all times.

3 3. A person who operates a vessel required to be  
4 licensed pursuant to paragraph (b), ~~or this paragraph, or~~  
5 paragraph (d) may obtain a license in her or his own name, and  
6 such license shall be transferable and apply to any vessel  
7 operated by the purchaser, provided that the purchaser has  
8 paid the appropriate license fee.

9 (d) A license for any person who operates any vessel  
10 licensed to carry any number of passengers, wherein a fee is  
11 paid, either directly or indirectly, for the sole purpose of  
12 catching and releasing freshwater fish, is \$150 per year. The  
13 license must be kept aboard the vessel at all times.

14 ~~(e)(d)~~ A license for a recreational vessel not for  
15 hire and for which no fee is paid, either directly or  
16 indirectly, by guests for the purpose of taking or attempting  
17 to take saltwater or freshwater fish noncommercially is \$2,000  
18 per year. The license may be purchased at the option of the  
19 vessel owner and must be kept aboard the vessel at all times.  
20 A log of species taken and the date the species were taken  
21 shall be maintained and a copy of the log filed with the  
22 commission at the time of renewal of the license.

23 ~~(f)(e)~~ The owner, operator, or custodian of a vessel  
24 the operator of which has been licensed pursuant to paragraph  
25 (a) must maintain and report such statistical data as required  
26 by, and in a manner set forth in, the rules of the commission.

27 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the  
28 amendment made by this act to section 372.57, Florida  
29 Statutes, in references thereto, paragraphs (i) and (j) of  
30 subsection (2) of section 372.562, Florida Statutes, are  
31 reenacted to read:

1 372.562 Recreational licenses and permits; exemptions  
2 from fees and requirements.--

3 (2) A hunting, freshwater fishing, or saltwater  
4 fishing license or permit is not required for:

5 (i) Any person fishing from a vessel licensed pursuant  
6 to s. 372.57(7).

7 (j) Any person fishing from a vessel the operator of  
8 which is licensed pursuant to s. 372.57(7).

9 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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12 SENATE SUMMARY

13 Requires that persons operating a vessel to take  
14 freshwater fish or carrying customers for that purpose  
15 obtain certain vessel licenses. Provides that revenues  
16 from freshwater fishing vessel license be deposited into  
17 the State Game Trust Fund.  
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