

1 notification signs that provide the meaning of such warning
2 and safety flags, ~~at on~~ the public beaches along the coast of
3 the state. Because the varying natural conditions of
4 Florida's public beaches and coastal areas pose significant
5 risks to the safety of tourists and the general public, it is
6 important to inform the public of the need to exercise
7 caution.

8 (2) The Department of Environmental Protection,
9 through the Florida Coastal Management Program, shall develop,
10 direct, and coordinate the uniform warning and safety flag
11 program. The purpose of the program ~~is shall be~~ to encourage
12 the display of uniform warning and safety flags at ~~all~~ public
13 beaches along the coast of the state ~~at which warning and~~
14 ~~safety flags are displayed and lifeguards are on duty,~~ and to
15 encourage the placement of uniform notification signs that
16 provide the meaning of such flags. Only warning and safety
17 flags that meet the specifications stated in, or developed by
18 the department pursuant to, this section may be so displayed.
19 Participation in the program shall be open to any government
20 having jurisdiction over a public beach, whether or not the
21 beach is overseen by a lifeguard.

22 (3) ~~The uniform warning and safety flag Department of~~
23 ~~Environmental Protection shall develop a program for the~~
24 ~~display of uniform warning and safety flags at all public~~
25 ~~beaches along the coast of the state at which warning and~~
26 ~~safety flags are displayed and lifeguards are on duty, and for~~
27 ~~the placement of uniform notification signs that provide the~~
28 ~~meaning of the flags displayed. Such a program shall provide:~~

29 (a) For posted notification of the meaning of each of
30 the warning and safety flags at ~~all~~ designated public access
31 points.

1 (b) That uniform notification signs be posted in a
2 conspicuous location and be clearly legible.

3 (c) A standard size, shape, color, and definition for
4 each warning and safety flag.

5 ~~(d) That flags incorporate a numerical designation to~~
6 ~~accommodate persons who are colorblind.~~

7 ~~(e) That flags not specifically defined by the~~
8 ~~department must be identified by the entity displaying the~~
9 ~~flags in the posted notification.~~

10 ~~(f) Guidelines for the periodic replacement of flags.~~

11 (4) The Department of Environmental Protection may ~~is~~
12 ~~authorized~~, within the limits of appropriations or grants
13 available to it for such purposes, ~~to~~ establish and operate
14 the uniform warning and safety flag program ~~a program to~~
15 ~~encourage the display of uniform warning and safety flags on~~
16 ~~all public beaches along the coast of the state and to~~
17 ~~encourage the placement of uniform notification signs that~~
18 ~~provide the meaning of the flags displayed.~~ The department
19 shall coordinate the implementation of the uniform warning and
20 safety flag program with local governing bodies and the
21 Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association.

22 (5) The Department of Environmental Protection may
23 adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 as necessary
24 to administer this section.

25 (6) Due to the inherent danger of constantly changing
26 surf conditions along the coast of this state, The state,
27 state agencies, local governments, and local, or regional
28 governmental entities or authorities, and their individual
29 employees or agents who are acting within the scope of their
30 employment or authority, government agencies may not be held
31 liable for any injury or loss of life caused by changing surf

1 ~~conditions along coastal areas where the reasonable placement~~
2 ~~or location of uniform warning and safety flags or reasonably~~
3 ~~posted uniform notification signs and or the failure to~~
4 ~~install uniform warning and safety flags or posted uniform~~
5 ~~notification signs that meet the specifications stated in, or~~
6 ~~developed by the department pursuant to, this section are~~
7 ~~posted as provided by this section.~~

8 (7) The Department of Environmental Protection,
9 through the Florida Coastal Management Program, may develop
10 and make available to the public other educational information
11 and materials related to beach safety.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
13 law.

14 *****

15 SENATE SUMMARY

16 Allows display of only certain warning and safety flags
17 on public beaches. Clarifies the authority of the
18 Department of Environmental Protection over the uniform
19 warning and safety flag program. Authorizes
20 participation in the program by any government having
21 jurisdiction over a public beach. Authorizes the use of
22 grants to establish or operate the program. Clarifies
23 the limitation on liability of governmental entities or
24 their agents or employees for loss or injury caused by
25 posted signs. Authorizes the department to develop and
26 publicize beach safety information.