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A bill to be entitled An act relating to saltwater fisheries; amending s. 370.135, F.S.; establishing certain endorsement fees for the taking of blue crabs; establishing an annual trap tag fee; authorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish an amount of equitable rent by rule; providing for legislative approval of the rule; authorizing the commission to waive endorsement and trap tag fees for a 1-year period; authorizing the waiver of blue crab trap replacement tag fees under certain conditions; requiring the deposit of certain proceeds into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; specifying the use of such proceeds; providing administrative penalties for certain violations; prohibiting the unauthorized possession of blue crab trap gear or removal of blue crab trap contents and providing penalties therefor; providing penalties for certain other prohibited activities relating to blue crab traps, lines, buoys, and trap tags; providing penalties for fraudulent reports related to endorsement transfers; prohibiting certain activities during endorsement suspension and revocation; preserving state jurisdiction for certain convictions; providing requirements for certain license renewal; providing for the expiration of certain provisions unless reenacted by the Legislature during the 2008 Regular Session;

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appropriating certain fee revenues to the commission for blue crab effort management program costs; amending s. 370.13, F.S.; providing for legislative approval of commission rules establishing equitable rent; authorizing the waiver of stone crab trap replacement tag fees under certain conditions; amending s. 370.14, F.S.; clarifying provisions regulating spiny lobsters; amending s. 370.142, F.S.; providing administrative penalties for certain violations of the spiny lobster trap certificate program; authorizing the waiver of spiny lobster trap replacement tag fees under certain conditions; providing for legislative approval of rules establishing equitable rent; amending s. 370.143, F.S.; revising provisions for certain trap retrieval programs and fees; amending s. 370.0603, F.S.; authorizing the deposit of certain funds into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; providing purposes for which funds may be used; amending s.370.025, F.S.; revising rulemaking authority; amending s. 20.331, F.S.; requiring the commission to adopt an adequate due-process rule; providing legislative intent; amending s. 921.0022, F.S.; deleting certain Level One offense designations; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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Section 1. Section 370.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

370.135 Blue crab; regulation.--

(1) No person, firm, or corporation shall transport on the water, fish with or cause to be fished with, set, or place any trap designed for taking blue crabs unless such person, firm, or corporation is the holder of a valid saltwater products license issued pursuant to s. 370.06 and the trap has a current state number permanently attached to the buoy. The trap number shall be affixed in legible figures at least 1 inch high on each buoy used. The saltwater products license must be on board the boat, and both the license and the crabs shall be subject to inspection at all times. Only one trap number may be issued for each boat by the commission upon receipt of an application on forms prescribed by it. This subsection shall not apply to an individual fishing with no more than five traps. It is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, for any person willfully to molest any traps, lines, or buoys, as defined herein, belonging to another without the express written consent of the trap owner. Any person receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of willful molestation of a trap, in addition to the penalties specified in s. 370.021, shall lose all saltwater fishing privileges for a period of 24 calendar months. It is unlawful for any person to remove the contents of or take possession of another harvester's trap without the express written consent of the trap owner available for immediate inspection. Unauthorized possession of another's trap gear or removal of trap contents constitutes theft. Any person receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal

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or acquittal on a charge of theft of or from a trap pursuant to this section or s. 370.1107 shall, in addition to the penalties specified in s. 370.021 and the provisions of this section, permanently lose all his or her saltwater fishing privileges including his or her saltwater products license and blue crab endorsement. In such cases endorsements, landings history, and trap certificates are nontransferable. In addition, any person, firm, or corporation receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal for violating this subsection or s. 370.1107 shall also be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000. Immediately upon receiving a citation for a violation involving theft of or from a trap and until adjudicated for such a violation, or receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal for such a violation, the person, firm, or corporation committing the violation is prohibited from transferring any blue crab endorsements, landings history, or trap certificates. (2) No person shall harvest blue crabs with more than five traps, harvest blue crabs in commercial quantities, or sell blue crabs unless such person holds a valid saltwater products license with a restricted species endorsement and a blue crab endorsement(trap number) issued pursuant to this section subsection. (a) Effective June 1, 1998, and until July 1, 2002, no blue crab endorsement (trap number), except those endorsements that are active during the 1997 1998 fiscal year, shall be renewed or replaced. (b) Effective January 1, 1999, and until July 1, 2002, a trap number holder, or members of his or her immediate

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family, must request renewal of the endorsement prior to September 30 of each year.

(c) If a person holding an active blue crab endorsement, or a member of that person's immediate family, does not request renewal of the endorsement before the applicable dates as specified in this subsection, the commission shall deactivate that endorsement.

(a)(d) In the event of the death or disability of a person holding an active blue crab endorsement, the endorsement may be transferred by the person to a member of his or her immediate family or may be renewed by any person so designated by the executor of the person's estate.

(b)(e) Persons who hold saltwater products licenses with blue crab endorsements issued to their boat registration numbers and who subsequently replace their existing vessels with new vessels shall be permitted to transfer the existing licenses to the new boat registration numbers.

(3)(a) Endorsement fees.--

- 1. The fee for a hard-shell blue crab endorsement for the taking of hard-shell blue crabs, as authorized by rule of the commission, is \$125, \$25 of which must be used solely for the trap-retrieval program authorized under s. 370.143 and in commission rules.
- 2. The fee for a soft-shell blue crab endorsement for the taking of soft-shell blue crabs, as authorized by rule of the commission, is \$250, \$25 of which must be used solely for the trap-retrieval program authorized under s. 370.143 and in commission rules.
- 3. The fee for a nontransferable hard-shell blue crab

 endorsement for the taking of hard-shell blue crabs, as

 authorized by rule of the commission, is \$125, \$25 of which

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must be used solely for the trap-retrieval program authorized under s. 370.143 and in commission rules.

- 4. The fee for an incidental-take blue crab endorsement for the taking of blue crabs as bycatch in shrimp trawls and stone crab traps, as authorized in commission rules, is \$25.
- (b) Trap tag fees. -- The annual fee for each trap tag issued by the commission under the requirements of the blue crab effort management program established by rule of the commission is 50 cents per taq. The fee for replacement tags for lost or damaged tags is 50 cents per tag plus the cost of shipping. In the event of a major natural disaster, such as a hurricane or major storm, which causes massive trap losses within an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, the commission may temporarily defer or permanently waive replacement tag fees. 16
 - (c) Equitable rent. -- The commission may establish by rule an amount of equitable rent that may be recovered as partial compensation to the state for the enhanced access to its natural resources. In determining whether to establish such a rent and the amount thereof, the commission may consider the amount of revenues annually generated by endorsement fees, trap tag fees, replacement trap tag fees, trap retrieval fees, and the continued economic viability of the commercial blue crab industry. A rule establishing an amount of equitable rent shall become effective only upon approval by act of the Legislature.
 - (d) Disposition of fees and fines for civil or criminal penalties. -- The fees generated from the sale of blue crab endorsements, trap tags, and replacement trap tags, and fines assessed with civil or criminal penalties authorized

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under this section, shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. Not more than 50 percent of the revenue generated by the sale of endorsements and trap 3 tags and the assessment of fines may be used for the operation 4 and administration of the blue crab effort management program. 5 The remaining revenues generated from the sale of endorsements 6 and trap tags and the assessment of fines may be used for trap 8 retrieval; management of the blue crab fishery; and 9 public-education activities, research, and enforcement activities in support of the blue crab effort management 10 11 program. (e) Waiver of fees. -- For the 2006-2007 license year, 12 13 the commission shall waive all fees under this subsection for 14 all persons who qualify by September 30, 2006, to participate in the blue crab effort management program established by 15 commission rule. 16 17 (4)(a) Untagged trap penalties. -- In addition to any 18 other penalties provided in s. 370.021 for any person, firm, 19 or corporation that violates commission rules requiring the placement of trap tags for each trap used for the directed 20 harvest of blue crabs, the following administrative penalties 2.1 22 apply: 23 For a first violation, the commission shall assess 24 an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 and the blue crab endorsement holder's blue crab fishing privileges may be 2.5 suspended for the remainder of the current license year. 26 27 2. For a second violation that occurs within 24 months 28 after any previous such violation, the commission shall assess

an administrative penalty of up to \$2,000 and the blue crab endorsement holder's blue crab fishing privileges may be

suspended for 12 calendar months.

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- 3. For a third violation that occurs within 36 months after any two previous such violations, the commission shall assess an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000 and the blue crab endorsement holder's blue crab fishing privileges may be suspended for 24 calendar months.

 4. A fourth violation that occurs within 48 months after any three previous such violations shall result in permanent revocation of all of the violator's saltwater
- after any three previous such violations shall result in

 permanent revocation of all of the violator's saltwater

 fishing privileges, including having the commission proceed

 against the endorsement holder's saltwater products license in

 accordance with s. 370.021.
 - Any person assessed an administrative penalty under this paragraph shall, within 30 calendar days after notification, pay the administrative penalty to the commission or request an administrative hearing under ss. 120.569 and 120.57. The proceeds of all administrative penalties collected under this paragraph shall be deposited in the Marine Resources

 Conservation Trust Fund.
 - (b) Trap theft; prohibitions and penalties.—It is unlawful for any person to remove or take possession of the contents of another harvester's blue crab trap without the express written consent of the trap owner, which must be available for immediate inspection. Unauthorized possession of another harvester's blue crab trap gear or removal of trap contents constitutes theft. Any person convicted of theft of or from a blue crab trap pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the penalties specified in s. 370.021 and the provisions of this section, permanently lose all of his or her saltwater fishing privileges, including saltwater products licenses, blue crab endorsements, and all blue crab trap tags

1	allotted to him or her by the commission. In such cases, blue				
2	crab endorsements are nontransferable. In addition, any				
3	person, firm, or corporation convicted of a violation of this				
4	paragraph shall also be assessed an administrative penalty of				
5	up to \$5,000. Immediately upon receiving a citation for a				
6	violation involving theft of or from a trap and until				
7	adjudicated for such a violation or upon receipt of a judicial				
8	disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on such a				
9	violation, the violator is prohibited from transferring any				
10	blue crab endorsement.				
11	(c) Criminal activities Any person, firm, or				
12	corporation convicted of violating commission rules that				
13	prohibit any of the following commits a felony of the third				
14	degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or				
	<u>s. 775.084:</u>				
15	5. 773.001				
15 16	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap,				
16	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap,				
16 17	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder,				
16 17 18	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder.				
16 17 18	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or				
16 17 18 19 20	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or				
16 17 18 19	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or supplying, agreeing to supply, aiding in supplying, or giving				
16 17 18 19 20 21	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or supplying, agreeing to supply, aiding in supplying, or giving away blue crab trap tags unless the action is duly authorized				
116 117 118 119 220 221 222 223	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or supplying, agreeing to supply, aiding in supplying, or giving away blue crab trap tags unless the action is duly authorized by commission rules.				
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or supplying, agreeing to supply, aiding in supplying, or giving away blue crab trap tags unless the action is duly authorized by commission rules. 3. The making, altering, forging, counterfeiting, or				
16 17 18 19 20 22 22 23	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or supplying, agreeing to supply, aiding in supplying, or giving away blue crab trap tags unless the action is duly authorized by commission rules. 3. The making, altering, forging, counterfeiting, or reproducing of blue crab trap tags.				
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or supplying, agreeing to supply, aiding in supplying, or giving away blue crab trap tags unless the action is duly authorized by commission rules. 3. The making, altering, forging, counterfeiting, or reproducing of blue crab trap tags. 4. Possession of altered, forged, counterfeit, or				
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	1. The willful molestation of any blue crab trap, line, or buoy that is the property of any licenseholder, without the permission of that licenseholder. 2. The bartering, trading, leasing, or sale, or conspiring or aiding in such barter, trade, lease, or sale, or supplying, agreeing to supply, aiding in supplying, or giving away blue crab trap tags unless the action is duly authorized by commission rules. 3. The making, altering, forging, counterfeiting, or reproducing of blue crab trap tags. 4. Possession of altered, forged, counterfeit, or imitation blue crab trap tags.				

1	6. Engaging in the commercial harvest of blue crabs			
2	during the time the licenseholder's blue crab endorsements are			
3	under suspension or revocation.			
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5	In addition, any person, firm, or corporation convicted of a			
6	violation of this paragraph shall be assessed an			
7	administrative penalty of up to \$5,000, and all of the blue			
8	crab endorsements possessed by the person, firm, or			
9	corporation may be suspended for up to 24 calendar months.			
10	Immediately upon receiving a citation involving a violation of			
11	this paragraph and until adjudicated for such a violation, or			
12	if convicted of such a violation, the person, firm, or			
13	corporation committing the violation is prohibited from			
14	transferring any blue crab endorsements.			
15	(d) Endorsement transfers; fraudulent reports;			
16	penalties For any person, firm, or corporation convicted of			
17	fraudulently reporting the actual value of transferred blue			
18	crab endorsements, the commission may automatically suspend or			
19	permanently revoke the seller's or the purchaser's blue crab			
20	endorsements. If the endorsement is permanently revoked, the			
21	commission shall also permanently deactivate the endorsement			
22	holder's blue crab trap tag accounts.			
23	(e) Prohibitions during endorsement suspension and			
24	revocation During any period of suspension or after			
25	revocation of a blue crab endorsement holder's endorsements,			
26	he or she shall, within 15 days after notice provided by the			
27	commission, remove from the water all traps subject to that			
28	endorsement. Failure to do so shall extend the period of			
29	suspension for an additional 6 calendar months.			
30	(5) For purposes of this section, a conviction is any			
31	disposition other than acquittal or dismissal.			

(6) A blue crab endorsement may not be renewed until all fees and administrative penalties imposed under this 3 section are paid. (7) Subsections (3), (4), (5), and (6) shall expire on 4 July 1, 2008, unless reenacted by the Legislature during the 5 6 2008 Regular Session. 7 Section 2. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the sum of 8 \$132,000 is appropriated from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation 9 Commission on a recurring basis for the purpose of 10 implementing the blue crab effort management program pursuant 11 to s. 370.135(3)(b), Florida Statutes, and administrative 12 13 costs of the Blue Crab Advisory Board as created by commission 14 rule. Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 370.13, Florida 15 Statutes, is amended to read: 16 370.13 Stone crab; regulation.--17 18 (1) FEES AND EQUITABLE RENT. --(a) Endorsement fee. -- The fee for a stone crab 19 endorsement for the taking of stone crabs, as required by rule 20 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, is \$125, \$25 21 22 of which must be used solely for trap retrieval under s. 23 370.143. 24 (b) Certificate fees.--1. For each trap certificate issued by the commission 2.5 26 under the requirements of the stone crab trap limitation program established by commission rule, there is an annual fee 27 28 of 50 cents per certificate. Replacement tags for lost or 29 damaged tags cost 50 cents each. In the event of a major natural disaster, such as a hurricane or major storm, which 30 31 causes massive trap losses within an area declared by the

Governor to be a disaster emergency area, the commission may temporarily defer or permanently waive replacement tag fees. 7 except that tags lost in the event of a major natural disaster declared as an emergency disaster by the Governor shall be replaced for the cost of the tag as incurred by the commission.

- 2. The fee for transferring trap certificates is \$1 per certificate transferred, except that the fee for eligible crew members is 50 cents per certificate transferred. Eligible crew members shall be determined according to criteria established by rule of the commission. Payment must be made by money order or cashier's check, submitted with the certificate transfer form developed by the commission.
- 3. In addition to the transfer fee, a surcharge of \$1 per certificate transferred, or 25 percent of the actual value of the transferred certificate, whichever is greater, will be assessed the first time a certificate is transferred outside the original holder's immediate family.
- 4. Transfer fees and surcharges only apply to the actual number of certificates received by the purchaser. A transfer of a certificate is not effective until the commission receives a notarized copy of the bill of sale as proof of the actual value of the transferred certificate or certificates, which must also be submitted with the transfer form and payment.
- 5. A transfer fee will not be assessed or required when the transfer is within a family as a result of the death or disability of the certificate owner. A surcharge will not be assessed for any transfer within an individual's immediate family.

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6. The fees and surcharge amounts in this paragraph apply in the 2005 2006 license year and subsequent years.

- (c) Incidental take endorsement. -- The cost of an incidental take endorsement, as established by commission rule, is \$25.
- (d) Equitable rent. -- The commission may establish by rule an amount of equitable rent per trap certificate that may be recovered as partial compensation to the state for the enhanced access to its natural resources. In determining whether to establish such a rent and the amount thereof, the commission may consider the amount of revenues annually generated by endorsement fees, trap certificate fees, transfer fees, surcharges, replacement trap tag fees, trap retrieval fees, incidental take endorsement fees, and the continued economic viability of the commercial stone crab industry. \underline{A} rule establishing an amount of equitable rent shall become effective only upon approval by act of the Legislature. Final approval of such a rule shall be by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

(d)(e) Disposition of fees, surcharges, civil penalties and fines, and equitable rent.--Endorsement fees, trap certificate fees, transfer fees, civil penalties and fines, surcharges, replacement trap tag fees, trap retrieval fees, and incidental take endorsement fees, and equitable rent, if any, must be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. Not more than 50 percent of the revenues generated under this section may be used for operation and administration of the stone crab trap limitation program. The remaining revenues generated under this program 31 | are to be used for trap retrieval, management of the stone

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crab fishery, public education activities, evaluation of the impact of trap reductions on the stone crab fishery, and enforcement activities in support of the stone crab trap limitation program.

(e)(f) Program to be self-supporting. -- The stone crab trap limitation program is intended to be a self-supporting program funded from proceeds generated under this section.

(f)(g) No vested rights. -- The stone crab trap limitation program does not create any vested rights for endorsement or certificateholders and may be altered or terminated by the commission as necessary to protect the stone crab resource, the participants in the fishery, or the public interest.

Section 4. Section 370.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

370.14 Spiny lobster Crawfish; regulation.--

- (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to maintain the spiny lobster crawfish industry for the economy of the state and to conserve the stocks supplying this industry. The provisions of this act regulating the taking of spiny lobster saltwater crawfish are for the purposes of ensuring and maintaining the highest possible production of spiny lobster saltwater crawfish.
- (2)(a)1. Each person taking or attempting to take spiny lobster crawfish with a trap in commercial quantities or for commercial purposes shall obtain and exhibit a spiny lobster crawfish trap number, as required by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The annual fee for a spiny lobster crawfish trap number is \$125. This trap number may be issued by the commission upon the receipt of application by 31 the person when accompanied by the payment of the fee. The

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design of the applications and of the trap number shall be determined by the commission. Any trap or device used in taking or attempting to take spiny lobster crawfish, other than a trap with the trap number, shall be seized and destroyed by the commission. The proceeds of the fees imposed by this paragraph shall be deposited and used as provided in paragraph (b). The commission may adopt rules to carry out the intent of this section.

- 2. Each person taking or attempting to take spiny <u>lobster</u> crawfish in commercial quantities or for commercial purposes by any method, other than with a trap having a spiny lobster crawfish trap number issued by the commission, must pay an annual fee of \$100.
- (b) Twenty-five dollars of the \$125 fee for a spiny lobster crawfish trap number required under subparagraph (a)1. must be used only for trap retrieval as provided in s. 370.143. The remainder of the fees collected pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be deposited as follows:
- 1. Fifty percent of the fees collected shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for use in enforcing the provisions of paragraph (a) through aerial and other surveillance and trap retrieval.
- 2. Fifty percent of the fees collected shall be deposited as provided in s. 370.142(5).
- (3) The <u>spiny lobster</u> crawfish license must be on board the boat, and both the license and the harvested spiny lobster crawfish shall be subject to inspection at all times. Only one license shall be issued for each boat. The spiny lobster crawfish license number must be prominently displayed above the topmost portion of the boat so as to be easily and 31 readily identified.

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- (4) It is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any person willfully to molest any <u>spiny lobster</u> <u>crawfish</u> traps, lines, or buoys belonging to another without permission of the licenseholder.
- (5) Any <u>spiny lobster</u> crawfish licenseholder, upon selling licensed <u>spiny lobster</u> crawfish traps, shall furnish the commission notice of such sale of all or part of his or her interest within 15 days thereof. Any holder of said license shall also notify the commission within 15 days if his or her address no longer conforms to the address appearing on the license and shall, as a part of such notification, furnish the commission with his or her new address.
- (6)(a) By a special permit granted by the commission, a Florida-licensed seafood dealer may lawfully import, process, and package <u>spiny lobster</u> saltwater crawfish or uncooked tails of the species Panulirus argus during the closed season. However, <u>spiny lobster</u> crawfish landed under special permit shall not be sold in the state.
- (b) The licensed seafood dealer importing any such spiny lobster crawfish under the permit shall, 12 hours prior to the time the seagoing vessel or airplane delivering such imported spiny lobster crawfish enters the state, notify the commission as to the seagoing vessel's name or the airplane's registration number and its captain, location, and point of destination.
- (c) At the time the <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> cargo is delivered to the permitholder's place of business, the <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> cargo shall be weighed and shall be available for inspection by the commission. A signed receipt of such quantity in pounds shall be forwarded to the commission within 48 hours after shipment weigh-in completion. If requested by

the commission, the weigh-in process will be delayed up to 4 hours to allow for a commission representative to be present during the process.

- (d) Within 48 hours after shipment weigh-in completion, the permitholder shall submit to the commission, on forms provided by the commission, a sworn report of the quantity in pounds of the <u>spiny lobster saltwater crawfish</u> received, which report shall include the location of said <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> and a sworn statement that said <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> were taken at least 50 miles from Florida's shoreline. The landing of <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> or <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> tails from which the eggs, swimmerettes, or pleopods have been removed; the falsification of information as to area from which <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> were obtained; or the failure to file the report called for in this section shall be grounds to revoke the permit.
- (e) Each permitholder shall keep throughout the period of the closed season copies of the bill of sale or invoices covering each transaction involving spiny lobster crawfish imported under this permit. Such invoices and bills shall be kept available at all times for inspection by the commission.
- (7)(a) A Florida-licensed seafood dealer may obtain a special permit to import, process, and package uncooked tails of <u>spiny lobster</u> saltwater crawfish upon the payment of the sum of \$100 to the commission.
- (b) A special permit must be obtained by any airplane or seagoing vessel other than a common carrier used to transport spiny lobster saltwater crawfish or spiny lobster crawfish tails for purchase by licensed seafood dealers for purposes as provided herein upon the payment of \$50.

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- (c) All special permits issued under this subsection are nontransferable.
- (8) No common carrier or employee of said carrier may carry, knowingly receive for carriage, or permit the carriage of any <u>spiny lobster crawfish</u> of the species Panulirus argus, regardless of where taken, during the closed season, except of the species Panulirus argus lawfully imported from a foreign country for reshipment outside of the territorial limits of the state under United States Customs bond or in accordance with paragraph (7)(a).
- Section 5. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (2) of section 370.142, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

 370.142 Spiny lobster trap certificate program.--
- (2) TRANSFERABLE TRAP CERTIFICATES; TRAP TAGS; FEES;
 PENALTIES.—The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 shall establish a trap certificate program for the spiny
 lobster fishery of this state and shall be responsible for its
 administration and enforcement as follows:
- (a) Transferable trap certificates.--Each holder of a saltwater products license who uses traps for taking or attempting to take spiny lobsters shall be required to have a certificate on record for each trap possessed or used therefor, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- 1. The Department of Environmental Protection shall initially allot such certificates to each licenseholder with a current spiny lobster crawfish trap number who uses traps. The number of such certificates allotted to each such licenseholder shall be based on the trap/catch coefficient established pursuant to trip ticket records generated under the provisions of s. 370.06(2) over a 3-year base period ending June 30, 1991. The trap/catch coefficient shall be

calculated by dividing the sum of the highest reported single license-year landings up to a maximum of 30,000 pounds for each such licenseholder during the base period by 700,000. 3 Each such licenseholder shall then be allotted the number of 4 certificates derived by dividing his or her highest reported 5 6 single license-year landings up to a maximum of 30,000 pounds during the base period by the trap/catch coefficient. 8 Nevertheless, no licenseholder with a current spiny lobster 9 crawfish trap number shall be allotted fewer than 10 certificates. However, certificates may only be issued to 10 individuals; therefore, all licenseholders other than 11 individual licenseholders shall designate the individual or 12 13 individuals to whom their certificates will be allotted and 14 the number thereof to each, if more than one. After initial issuance, trap certificates are transferable on a market basis 15 and may be transferred from one licenseholder to another for a 16 fair market value agreed upon between the transferor and 17 transferee. Each such transfer shall, within 72 hours thereof, 19 be recorded on a notarized form provided for that purpose by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and hand 20 delivered or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, 21 to the commission for recordkeeping purposes. In addition, In 2.2 23 order to cover the added administrative costs of the program 24 and to recover an equitable natural resource rent for the people of the state, a transfer fee of \$2 per certificate 2.5 transferred shall be assessed against the purchasing 26 licenseholder and sent by money order or cashier's check with 27 28 the certificate transfer form. Also, in addition to the 29 transfer fee, a surcharge of \$5 per certificate transferred or 30 25 percent of the actual market value, whichever is greater, 31 given to the transferor shall be assessed the first time a

certificate is transferred outside the original transferor's immediate family. No transfer of a certificate shall be 3 effective until the commission receives the notarized transfer form and the transfer fee, including any surcharge, is paid. The commission may establish by rule an amount of equitable rent per trap certificate that shall be recovered as partial 6 compensation to the state for the enhanced access to its natural resources. A rule establishing an amount of equitable rent shall become effective only upon approval by act of the Legislature. Final approval of such a rule shall be by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. In determining whether to 12 13 establish such a rent and, if so, the amount thereof, the 14 commission shall consider the amount of revenues annually generated by certificate fees, transfer fees, surcharges, trap 15 license fees, and sales taxes, the demonstrated fair market 16 value of transferred certificates, and the continued economic 17 viability of the commercial lobster industry. The proceeds of equitable rent recovered shall be deposited in the Marine 19 Resources Conservation Trust Fund and used by the commission 20 for research, management, and protection of the spiny lobster 21 fishery and habitat. A transfer fee may not be assessed or 2.2 required when the transfer is within a family as a result of 24 the death or disability of the certificate owner. A surcharge will not be assessed for any transfer within an individual's 2.5 immediate family. 26 2. No person, firm, corporation, or other business 27

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entity may control, directly or indirectly, more than 1.5 percent of the total available certificates in any license

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- 3. The commission shall maintain records of all certificates and their transfers and shall annually provide each licenseholder with a statement of certificates held.
- 4. The number of trap tags issued annually to each licenseholder shall not exceed the number of certificates held by the licenseholder at the time of issuance, and such tags and a statement of certificates held shall be issued simultaneously.
- 5. Beginning July 1, 2003, and applicable to the 2003 2004 lobster season and thereafter, It is unlawful for any person to lease spiny lobster trap tags or certificates.
- (b) Trap tags. -- Each trap used to take or attempt to take spiny lobsters in state waters or adjacent federal waters shall, in addition to the spiny lobster crawfish trap number required by s. 370.14(2), have affixed thereto an annual trap tag issued by the commission. Each such tag shall be made of durable plastic or similar material and shall, based on the number of certificates held, have stamped thereon the owner's license number. To facilitate enforcement and recordkeeping, such tags shall be issued each year in a color different from that of each of the previous 3 years. The annual certificate fee shall be \$1 per certificate. Replacement tags for lost or damaged tags may be obtained as provided by rule of the commission. In the event of a major natural disaster, such as a hurricane or major storm, which causes massive trap losses within an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, the commission may temporarily defer or permanently waive replacement tag fees.
 - (c) Prohibitions; penalties. --
- 1. It is unlawful for a person to possess or use a 31 | spiny lobster trap in or on state waters or adjacent federal

waters without having affixed thereto the trap tag required by this section. It is unlawful for a person to possess or use any other gear or device designed to attract and enclose or otherwise aid in the taking of spiny lobster by trapping that is not a trap as defined by commission rule in rule

68B 24.006(2). Florida Administrative Code.

- 2. It is unlawful for a person to possess or use spiny lobster trap tags without having the necessary number of certificates on record as required by this section.
- 3. It is unlawful for any person to willfully molest, take possession of, or remove the contents of another harvester's <u>spiny lobster</u> trap without the express written consent of the trap owner available for immediate inspection. Unauthorized possession of another's trap gear or removal of trap contents constitutes theft.
- a. Any person receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of theft of or from a spiny lobster trap pursuant to this subparagraph or s.

 370.1107 shall, in addition to the penalties specified in ss.

 370.021 and 370.14 and the provisions of this section, permanently lose all his or her saltwater fishing privileges, including his or her saltwater products license, spiny lobster crawfish endorsement, and all trap certificates allotted to him or her through this program. In such cases, trap certificates and endorsements are nontransferable.
- b. Any person receiving a judicial disposition other
 than dismissal or acquittal on a charge of willful molestation
 of a trap, in addition to the penalties specified in ss.
 370.021 and 370.14, shall lose all saltwater fishing
 privileges for a period of 24 calendar months.

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c. In addition, any person, firm, or corporation charged with violating this paragraph and receiving a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal for violating this subparagraph or s. 370.1107 shall also be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000.

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Immediately upon receiving a citation for a violation involving theft of or from a trap, or molestation of a trap, and until adjudicated for such a violation or, upon receipt of a judicial disposition other than dismissal or acquittal of such a violation, the person, firm, or corporation committing the violation is prohibited from transferring any crawfish trap certificates and endorsements.

- 4. In addition to any other penalties provided in s. 370.021, a commercial harvester, as defined by rule 68B 24.002(1), Florida Administrative Code, who violates the provisions of this section, or commission rules the provisions relating to spiny lobster traps of chapter 68B 24, Florida Administrative Code, shall be punished as follows:
- a. If the first violation is for violation of subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., the commission shall assess an additional <u>administrative</u> <u>civil</u> penalty of up to \$1,000 and the <u>spiny lobster</u> <u>crawfish</u> trap number issued pursuant to s. 370.14(2) or (6) may be suspended for the remainder of the current license year. For all other first violations, the commission shall assess an additional <u>administrative</u> <u>civil</u> penalty of up to \$500.
- b. For a second violation of subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. which occurs within 24 months of any previous such violation, the commission shall assess an additional administrative civil penalty of up to \$2,000 and the spiny

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- lobster crawfish trap number issued pursuant to s. 370.14(2)
 or (6) may be suspended for the remainder of the current
 license year.
- c. For a third or subsequent violation of subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3. which occurs within 36 months of any previous two such violations, the commission shall assess an additional administrative civil penalty of up to \$5,000 and may suspend the spiny lobster crawfish trap number issued pursuant to s. 370.14(2) or (6) for a period of up to 24 months or may revoke the spiny lobster crawfish trap number and, if revoking the spiny lobster crawfish trap number, may also proceed against the licenseholder's saltwater products license in accordance with the provisions of s. 370.021(2)(h).
- d. Any person assessed an additional <u>administrative</u> civil penalty pursuant to this section shall within 30 calendar days after notification:
- (I) Pay the $\underline{\text{administrative}}$ $\underline{\text{civil}}$ penalty to the commission; or
- (II) Request an administrative hearing pursuant to the provisions of $\underline{ss.\ 120.569}$ and $\underline{120.57}$ $\underline{s.\ 120.60}$.
- e. The commission shall suspend the <u>spiny lobster</u> crawfish trap number issued pursuant to s. 370.14(2) or (6) for any person failing to comply with the provisions of sub-subparagraph d.
- 5.a. It is unlawful for any person to make, alter, forge, counterfeit, or reproduce a spiny lobster trap tag or certificate.
- b. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly have in his or her possession a forged, counterfeit, or imitation spiny lobster trap tag or certificate.

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- c. It is unlawful for any person to barter, trade, sell, supply, agree to supply, aid in supplying, or give away a spiny lobster trap tag or certificate or to conspire to barter, trade, sell, supply, aid in supplying, or give away a spiny lobster trap tag or certificate unless such action is duly authorized by the commission as provided in this chapter or in the rules of the commission.
- 6.a. Any person who violates the provisions of subparagraph 5., or any person who engages in the commercial harvest, trapping, or possession of spiny lobster without a spiny lobster crawfish trap number as required by s. 370.14(2) or (6) or during any period while such spiny lobster crawfish trap number is under suspension or revocation, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- b. In addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to sub-subparagraph a., the commission shall levy a fine of up to twice the amount of the appropriate surcharge to be paid on the fair market value of the transferred certificates, as provided in subparagraph (a)1., on any person who violates the provisions of sub-subparagraph 5.c.
- c. In addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to sub-subparagraph a., any person receiving any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal for a violation of subparagraph 5. shall be assessed an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000, and the spiny lobster endorsement under which the violation was committed may be suspended for up to 24 calendar months. Immediately upon issuance of a citation involving a violation of subparagraph 5. and until adjudication of such a violation, and after receipt of any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal for

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such a violation, the person holding the spiny lobster endorsement listed on the citation is prohibited from transferring any spiny lobster trap certificates.

- 7. Any certificates for which the annual certificate fee is not paid for a period of 3 years shall be considered abandoned and shall revert to the commission. During any period of trap reduction, any certificates reverting to the commission shall become permanently unavailable and be considered in that amount to be reduced during the next license-year period. Otherwise, any certificates that revert to the commission are to be reallotted in such manner as provided by the commission.
- 8. The proceeds of all administrative civil penalties collected pursuant to subparagraph 4. and all fines collected pursuant to sub-subparagraph 6.b. shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund.
- 9. All traps shall be removed from the water during any period of suspension or revocation.
- Section 6. Section 370.143, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 370.143 Retrieval of spiny lobster, crawfish, and stone crab, blue crab, and black sea bass traps during closed season; commission authority; fees. --
- (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is authorized to implement a trap retrieval program for retrieval of spiny lobster, crawfish, and stone crab, blue crab, and black sea bass traps remaining in the water during the closed season for each species. The commission is authorized to contract with outside agents for the program operation.
- (2) A retrieval fee of \$10 per trap retrieved shall be 31 assessed trap owners. However, for each person holding a spiny

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lobster endorsement, crawfish stamp number or a stone crab endorsement, or a blue crab endorsement issued under rule of the commission, the retrieval fee shall be waived for the first five traps retrieved. Traps recovered under this program shall become the property of the commission or its contract agent, as determined by the commission, and shall be either destroyed or resold to the original owner. Revenue from retrieval fees shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and used solely for operation of the trap retrieval program.

- (3) Payment of all assessed retrieval fees shall be required prior to renewal of the trap owner's saltwater products license and stone crab and or crawfish endorsements. Retrieval fees assessed under this program shall stand in lieu of other penalties imposed for such trap violations.
- (4) <u>In the event of a major natural disaster, such as</u> a hurricane or major storm, which causes major trap losses within an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, the commission shall waive the trap retrieval fee. In the event of a major natural disaster in an area declared by the Governor to be a disaster emergency area, such as a hurricane or major storm causing massive trap losses, the commission shall waive the trap retrieval fee.

Section 7. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (1) of section 370.0603, Florida Statutes, and paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) of that section are amended, to read:

370.0603 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; purposes. --

(1) The Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall 31 serve as a broad-based depository for funds from various

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marine-related and boating-related activities and shall be administered by the commission for the purposes of:

- (j) Funding for the stone crab trap reduction program under s. 370.13, the blue crab effort management program under s. 370.135, the spiny lobster trap certificate program under s. 370.142, and the trap retrieval program under s. 370.143.
- (2) The Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund shall receive the proceeds from:
- (c) All fees collected pursuant to ss. 370.063, 370.13, 370.135, 370.142, 370.143, and 372.5704.
- 11 (d) All fines and penalties pursuant to <u>ss.</u> s.
 12 370.021, 370.13, 370.135, and 370.142.
 - Section 8. Subsection (4) of section 370.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 370.025 Marine fisheries; policy and standards.--
 - (4) Pursuant to s. 9, Art. IV of the State Constitution, the commission has full constitutional rulemaking authority over marine life, and listed species as defined in s. 372.072(3), except for:
 - (a) Endangered or threatened marine species for which rulemaking shall be done pursuant to chapter 120; and
 - (b) The authority to regulate fishing gear in residential, manmade saltwater canals which is retained by the Legislature and specifically not delegated to the commission.
 - (c) Marine aquaculture products produced by an individual certified under s. 597.004. This exception does not apply to snook, prohibited and restricted marine species identified by rule of the commission, and rulemaking authority granted pursuant to s. 370.027.
- Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 20.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.331 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.--2 (8) ADEQUATE DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES. --3 (a) The commission shall adopt a rule establishing 4 adequate due-process procedures to be accorded to any party, 5 as defined in s. 120.52, whose substantial interests are affected by any action of the commission in the performance of 6 its constitutional duties and responsibilities. The adequate 8 due-process rule shall be published in the Florida 9 Administrative Code. The commission shall implement a system of adequate due process procedures to be accorded to any 10 party, as defined in s. 120.52, whose substantial interests 11 12 will be affected by any action of the commission in the 13 performance of its constitutional duties or responsibilities. 14 review, prior to the 2008 Regular Session, laws relating to 15 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's role in the 16 management of marine fishery resources to conform statutes to 17 18 clarify that the power with respect to marine life which the 19 Marine Fisheries Commission had on March 1, 1998 did not include the power which the Legislature had given to the 20 Department of Environmental Protection to regulate marine 21 22 life, and that the authority transferred by the Legislature 23 from the Department of Environmental Protection to the Fish 24 and Wildlife Conservation Commission is statutory and not 2.5 constitutional. Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 26 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 27 921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity 28 29 ranking chart. --(3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART 30 31

1	Florida	Felony	
2	Statute	Degree	Description
3			
4			(a) LEVEL 1
5	24.118(3)(a)	3rd	Counterfeit or altered state
6			lottery ticket.
7	212.054(2)(b)	3rd	Discretionary sales surtax;
8			limitations, administration, and
9			collection.
10	212.15(2)(b)	3rd	Failure to remit sales taxes,
11			amount greater than \$300 but less
12			than \$20,000.
13	316.1935(1)	3rd	Fleeing or attempting to elude
14			law enforcement officer.
15	319.30(5)	3rd	Sell, exchange, give away
16			certificate of title or
17			identification number plate.
18	319.35(1)(a)	3rd	Tamper, adjust, change, etc., an
19			odometer.
20	320.26(1)(a)	3rd	Counterfeit, manufacture, or sell
21			registration license plates or
22			validation stickers.
23	322.212		
24	(1)(a)-(c)	3rd	Possession of forged, stolen,
25			counterfeit, or unlawfully issued
26			driver's license; possession of
27			simulated identification.
28	322.212(4)	3rd	Supply or aid in supplying
29			unauthorized driver's license or
30			identification card.
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1	322.212(5)(a)	3rd	False application for driver's
2			license or identification card.
3	370.13(2)(c)1.	3rd	Molest any stone crab trap, line,
4			or buoy which is property of
5			licenseholder.
6	370.135(1)	3rd	Molest any blue crab trap, line,
7			or buoy which is property of
8			licenseholder.
9	372.663(1)	3rd	Poach any alligator or
10			crocodilia.
11	414.39(2)	3rd	Unauthorized use, possession,
12			forgery, or alteration of food
13			stamps, Medicaid ID, value
14			greater than \$200.
15	414.39(3)(a)	3rd	Fraudulent misappropriation of
16			public assistance funds by
17			employee/official, value more
18			than \$200.
19	443.071(1)	3rd	False statement or representation
20			to obtain or increase
21			unemployment compensation
22			benefits.
23	509.151(1)	3rd	Defraud an innkeeper, food or
24			lodging value greater than \$300.
25	517.302(1)	3rd	Violation of the Florida
26			Securities and Investor
27			Protection Act.
28	562.27(1)	3rd	Possess still or still apparatus.
29	713.69	3rd	Tenant removes property upon
30			which lien has accrued, value
31			more than \$50.

1	812.014(3)(c)	3rd	Petit theft (3rd conviction);
2			theft of any property not
3			specified in subsection (2).
4	812.081(2)	3rd	Unlawfully makes or causes to be
5			made a reproduction of a trade
6			secret.
7	815.04(4)(a)	3rd	Offense against intellectual
8			property (i.e., computer
9			programs, data).
10	817.52(2)	3rd	Hiring with intent to defraud,
11			motor vehicle services.
12	817.569(2)	3rd	Use of public record or public
13			records information to facilitate
14			commission of a felony.
15	826.01	3rd	Bigamy.
16	828.122(3)	3rd	Fighting or baiting animals.
17	831.04(1)	3rd	Any erasure, alteration, etc., of
18			any replacement deed, map, plat,
19			or other document listed in s.
20			92.28.
21	831.31(1)(a)	3rd	Sell, deliver, or possess
22			counterfeit controlled
23			substances, all but s. 893.03(5)
24			drugs.
25	832.041(1)	3rd	Stopping payment with intent to
26			defraud \$150 or more.
27	832.05		
28	(2)(b)&(4)(c)	3rd	Knowing, making, issuing
29			worthless checks \$150 or more or
30			obtaining property in return for
31			worthless check \$150 or more.

1	838.15(2)	3rd	Commercial bribe receiving.
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	838.16	3rd	Commercial bribery.
3	843.18	3rd	Fleeing by boat to elude a law
4			enforcement officer.
5	847.011(1)(a)	3rd	Sell, distribute, etc., obscene,
6			lewd, etc., material (2nd
7			conviction).
8	849.01	3rd	Keeping gambling house.
9	849.09(1)(a)-(d)	3rd	Lottery; set up, promote, etc.,
10			or assist therein, conduct or
11			advertise drawing for prizes, or
12			dispose of property or money by
13			means of lottery.
14	849.23	3rd	Gambling-related machines;
15			"common offender" as to property
16			rights.
17	849.25(2)	3rd	Engaging in bookmaking.
18	860.08	3rd	Interfere with a railroad signal.
19	860.13(1)(a)	3rd	Operate aircraft while under the
20			influence.
21	893.13(2)(a)2.	3rd	Purchase of cannabis.
22	893.13(6)(a)	3rd	Possession of cannabis (more than
23			20 grams).
24	934.03(1)(a)	3rd	Intercepts, or procures any other
25			person to intercept, any wire or
26			oral communication.
27	Section 12.	This act	t shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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