1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to vessels; amending s. 206.606, F.S.; authorizing the use of certain funds for local boating 3 related projects and activities; amending s. 327.59, F.S.; 4 5 authorizing marina owners, operators, employees, and 6 agents to take actions to secure vessels during severe 7 weather and to charge fees and be held harmless for such service; holding marina operators, employees, and agents 8 9 liable for damage caused by intentional acts or negligence while removing or securing vessels; authorizing contract 10 provisions and providing contract notice requirements 11 12 relating to removing or securing vessels; amending s. 13 327.60, F.S.; providing for local regulation of anchoring 14 within mooring fields; amending s. 328.64, F.S.; requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to 15 provide forms for certain notification related to vessels; 16 17 requiring the department to provide by rule for the surrender and replacement of certificates of registration 18 19 to reflect change of address; amending s. 328.72, F.S.; requiring counties to use funds for specific boating 20 21 related purposes; requiring counties to provide reports demonstrating specified expenditure of such funds; 22 providing penalties for failure to comply; amending s. 23 376.11, F.S.; authorizing the distribution of revenues 24 from the Florida Coastal Protection Trust Fund to all 25 26 local governments for the removal of certain vessels; amending s. 376.15, F.S.; revising provisions relating to 27

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28 the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels; specifying 29 officers authorized to remove such vessels; providing that certain costs are recoverable; requiring the Department of 30 Legal Affairs to represent the Fish and Wildlife 31 32 Conservation Commission in certain actions; expanding 33 eligibility for disbursement of grant funds for the 34 removal of certain vessels; amending s. 403.813, F.S.; providing exemptions from permitting, registration, and 35 regulation of floating vessel platforms or floating boat 36 37 lifts by a local government; authorizing local governments to require certain permits or registration for floating 38 39 vessel platforms or floating boat lifts under certain 40 circumstances; amending s. 705.101, F.S.; revising the 41 definition of "abandoned property" to include certain vessels; amending s. 705.103, F.S.; revising the 42 terminology relating to abandoned or lost property to 43 conform; amending s. 823.11, F.S.; revising provisions 44 relating to abandoned and derelict vessels and the removal 45 46 of such vessels; providing a definition of "derelict vessel"; specifying which officers may remove such 47 vessels; directing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation 48 Commission to implement a plan for the procurement of 49 federal disaster funds for the removal of derelict 50 vessels; requiring the Department of Legal Affairs to 51 represent the commission in certain actions; deleting a 52 53 provision authorizing the commission to delegate certain authority to local governments under certain 54

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55 circumstances; authorizing private property owners to remove certain vessels with required notice; providing 56 that cost of such removal is recoverable; prohibiting 57 private property owners from hindering the removal of 58 59 certain vessels by vessel owners or agents; providing for 60 jurisdictional imposition of civil penalties for violations relating to certain vessels; providing an 61 effective date. 62

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

66 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section67 206.606, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

68

63

65

206.606 Distribution of certain proceeds.--

Moneys collected pursuant to ss. 206.41(1)(g) and 69 (1)70 206.87(1)(e) shall be deposited in the Fuel Tax Collection Trust 71 Fund. Such moneys, after deducting the service charges imposed 72 by s. 215.20, the refunds granted pursuant to s. 206.41, and the 73 administrative costs incurred by the department in collecting, 74 administering, enforcing, and distributing the tax, which 75 administrative costs may not exceed 2 percent of collections, 76 shall be distributed monthly to the State Transportation Trust 77 Fund, except that:

(b) \$2.5 million shall be transferred to the State Game
Trust Fund in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in
each fiscal year and used for recreational boating activities,
and freshwater fisheries management and research. The transfers

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must be made in equal monthly amounts beginning on July 1 of 82 83 each fiscal year. The commission shall annually determine where unmet needs exist for boating-related activities, and may fund 84 such activities in counties where, due to the number of vessel 85 registrations, sufficient financial resources are unavailable. 86 87 A minimum of \$1.25 million shall be used to fund local 1. projects to provide recreational channel marking and other 88 uniform waterway markers, public boat ramps, lifts, and hoists, 89 90 marine railways, and other public launching facilities, derelict vessel removal aquatic plant control, and other local boating 91 related activities. In funding the projects, the commission 92

94 a. Unmet needs in counties with populations of 100,000 or95 less.

b. Unmet needs in coastal counties with a high level of
boating related activities from individuals residing in other
counties.

99 2. The remaining \$1.25 million may be used for
100 recreational boating activities and freshwater fisheries
101 management and research.

shall give priority consideration as follows:

3. The commission is authorized to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement a Florida Boating Improvement Program similar to the program administered by the Department of Environmental Protection and established in rules 62D-5.031 - 62D-5.036, Florida Administrative Code, to determine projects eligible for funding under this subsection.

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On February 1 of each year, the commission shall file an annual report with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives outlining the status of its Florida Boating Improvement Program, including the projects funded, and a list of counties whose needs are unmet due to insufficient financial resources from vessel registration fees.

Section 2. Section 327.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

117

327.59 Marina evacuations.--

(1) After June 1, 1994, marinas may not adopt, maintain,
or enforce policies pertaining to evacuation of vessels which
require vessels to be removed from marinas following the
issuance of a hurricane watch or warning, in order to ensure
that protecting the lives and safety of vessel owners is placed
before interests of protecting property.

124 Nothing in this section may be construed to restrict (2)the ability of an owner of a vessel or the owner's authorized 125 representative to remove a vessel voluntarily from a marina at 126 127 any time or to restrict a marina owner from dictating the kind 128 of cleats, ropes, fenders, and other measures that must be used 129 on vessels as a condition of use of a marina. After a tropical storm or hurricane watch has been issued, a marina owner or 130 131 operator, or an employee or agent of such owner or operator, may take reasonable actions to further secure any vessel within the 132 133 marina to minimize damage to a vessel and to protect marina 134 property, private property, and the environment and may charge a reasonable fee for such services. 135

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136	(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section,
137	in order to minimize damage to a vessel and to protect marina
138	property, private property, and the environment, a marina owner
139	may provide by contract that in the event a vessel owner fails
140	to promptly remove a vessel from a marina after a tropical storm
141	or hurricane watch has been issued, the marina owner, operator,
142	employee, or agent may remove the vessel, if reasonable, from
143	its slip or take whatever reasonable actions are deemed
144	necessary to properly secure a vessel to minimize damage to a
145	vessel and to protect marina property, private property, and the
146	environment and may charge the vessel owner a reasonable fee for
147	any such services rendered. In order to add such a provision to
148	a contract, the marina owner must provide notice to the vessel
149	owner in any such contract in a font size of at least 10 points
150	and in substantially the following form:
151	
152	NOTICE TO VESSEL OWNER
153	
154	The undersigned hereby informs you that in the event you fail to
155	remove your vessel from the marina promptly (timeframe to be
156	determined between the marina owner or operator and the vessel
157	owner) after the issuance of a tropical storm or hurricane watch
158	for (insert geographic area), Florida, under Florida law, the
159	undersigned or his or her employees or agents are authorized to
160	remove your vessel, if reasonable, from its slip or take any and
161	all other reasonable actions deemed appropriate by the
162	undersigned or his or her employees or agents in order to better

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163 secure your vessel and to protect marina property, private 164 property, and the environment. You are further notified that you 165 may be charged a reasonable fee for any such action. 166 (4) A marina owner, operator, employee, or agent shall not be held liable for any damage incurred to a vessel from storms 167 168 or hurricanes and is held harmless as a result of such actions. Nothing in this section may be construed to provide immunity to 169 170 a marina operator, employee, or agent for any damage caused by 171 intentional acts or negligence when removing or securing a vessel as permitted under this section. 172 173 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 327.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 174 175 327.60 Local regulations; limitations.--176 (2)Nothing contained in the provisions of this section shall be construed to prohibit local governmental authorities 177 178 from the enactment or enforcement of regulations which prohibit or restrict the mooring or anchoring of floating structures or 179 live-aboard vessels within their jurisdictions or of any vessels 180 181 within the marked boundaries of mooring fields permitted as 182 provided in s. 327.40. However, local governmental authorities 183 are prohibited from regulating the anchoring outside of such mooring fields anchorage of non-live-aboard vessels engaged in 184 the exercise of rights of navigation. 185 Section 4. Section 328.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to 186 187 read: 188 328.64 Change of interest and address.--

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189 (1) The owner shall furnish the Department of Highway 190 Safety and Motor Vehicles notice of the transfer of all or any part of his or her interest in a vessel registered or titled in 191 192 this state pursuant to this chapter or chapter 328 or of the destruction or abandonment of such vessel, within 30 days 193 194 thereof, on a form prescribed by the department. Such transfer, destruction, or abandonment shall terminate the certificate for 195 196 such vessel, except that in the case of a transfer of a part 197 interest which does not affect the owner's right to operate such vessel, such transfer shall not terminate the certificate. The 198 department shall provide the form for such notice and shall 199 200 attach the form to every vessel title issued or reissued.

201 (2) Any holder of a certificate of registration shall 202 notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or the county tax collector within 30 days, if his or her address 203 204 no longer conforms to the address appearing on the certificate and shall, as a part of such notification, furnish the 205 department or such county tax collector with the new address. 206 207 The department shall may provide in its rules and regulations 208 for the surrender of the certificate bearing the former address 209 and its replacement with a certificate bearing the new address or for the alteration of an outstanding certificate to show the 210 211 new address of the holder.

212 Section 5. Subsection (15) of section 328.72, Florida 213 Statutes, is amended to read:

328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges;
surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.--

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DISTRIBUTION OF FEES. -- Except for the first \$2, \$1 of 216 (15)217 which shall be remitted to the state for deposit into the Save 218 the Manatee Trust Fund created within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and \$1 of which shall be remitted to the 219 state for deposit into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust 220 221 Fund to fund a grant program for public launching facilities, pursuant to s. 206.606 <del>327.47</del>, giving priority consideration to 222 counties with more than 35,000 registered vessels, moneys 223 224 designated for the use of the counties, as specified in subsection (1), shall be distributed by the tax collector to the 225 226 board of county commissioners for use only as provided in this 227 section. Such moneys to be returned to the counties are for the 228 sole purposes of providing recreational channel marking and other uniform waterway markers, public boat ramps, lifts, and 229 hoists, marine railways, and other public launching facilities, 230 derelict vessel removal, and other boating related activities, 231 for removal of vessels and floating structures deemed a hazard 232 to public safety and health for failure to comply with s. 233 234 327.53, and for manatee and marine mammal protection and 235 recovery. Counties shall that demonstrate through an annual 236 detailed accounting report of vessel registration revenues that at least \$1 of the registration fees were spent as provided in 237 238 this subsection on boating infrastructure shall only be required 239 to transfer the first \$1 of the fees to the Save the Manatee 240 Trust Fund. This report shall be provided to the Fish and 241 Wildlife Conservation Commission no later than November 1 of each year. If, prior to January 1 of each calendar year, the 242

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243 annual detailed accounting report meeting the prescribed 244 criteria has still not been provided to the commission, the tax 245 collector of that county shall not distribute the moneys designated for the use of counties, as specified in subsection 246 (1), to the board of county commissioners but shall, instead, 247 248 for the next calendar year, remit such moneys to the state for deposit into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. The 249 250 commission shall return those moneys to the county if the county 251 fully complies with this section within that calendar year. If the county does not fully comply with this section within that 252 253 calendar year, the moneys shall remain within the Marine 254 Resources Trust Fund and may be appropriated for the purposes 255 specified in this subsection The commission shall provide an 256 exemption letter to the department by December 15 of each year 257 for qualifying counties. 258 Section 6. Paragraph (g) of subsection (4) of section 376.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 259 376.11 Florida Coastal Protection Trust Fund.--260 261 (4)Moneys in the Florida Coastal Protection Trust Fund 262 shall be disbursed for the following purposes and no others: 263 (q) The funding of a grant program to coastal local governments, pursuant to s. 376.15(2)(b) and (c), for the 264 265 removal of derelict vessels from the public waters of the state. 266 Section 7. Section 376.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to 267 read: 268 376.15 Derelict vessels; removal from public waters.--

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269 (1)It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to 270 store, leave, or abandon any derelict vessel as defined in s. 271 823.11(1) in this state or leave any vessel in a wrecked, 272 junked, or substantially dismantled condition or abandoned upon any public waters or at any port in this state without the 273 274 consent of the agency having jurisdiction thereof or docked at any private property without the consent of the owner of the 275 276 private property. 277 (2) (a) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its officers and all law enforcement officers as specified in s. 278 279 327.70 are is hereby designated as the agency of the state 280 authorized and empowered to remove any derelict vessel as 281 defined in s. 823.11(1) described in subsection (1) from public 282 waters. All costs incurred by the commission or other law 283 enforcement agency in the removal of any abandoned or derelict

284 vessel shall be recoverable against the owner of the vessel. The 285 Department of Legal Affairs shall represent the commission in 286 such actions.

(b) The commission may establish a program to provide
grants to coastal local governments for the removal of derelict
vessels from the public waters of the state. The program shall
be funded from the Florida Coastal Protection Trust Fund.
Notwithstanding the provisions in s. 216.181(11), funds
available for grants may only be authorized by appropriations
acts of the Legislature.

(c) The commission shall adopt by rule procedures forsubmitting a grant application and criteria for allocating

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296 available funds. Such criteria shall include, but not be limited 297 to, the following:

The number of derelict vessels within the jurisdiction
 of the applicant.

300 2. The threat posed by such vessels to public health or
301 safety, the environment, navigation, or the aesthetic condition
302 of the general vicinity.

303 3. The degree of commitment of the local government to 304 maintain waters free of abandoned and derelict vessels and to 305 seek legal action against those who abandon vessels in the 306 waters of the state.

307 (d) This section shall constitute the authority of the
 308 commission for such removal, but is not intended to be in
 309 contravention of any applicable federal act.

310 (e) The Department of Legal Affairs shall represent the
 311 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in such actions.

312 Section 8. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section313 403.813, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

314 403.813 Permits issued at district centers; exceptions.--315 A permit is not required under this chapter, chapter (2) 316 373, chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, or chapter 25214 or chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, for activities associated 317 318 with the following types of projects; however, except as 319 otherwise provided in this subsection, nothing in this subsection relieves an applicant from any requirement to obtain 320 321 permission to use or occupy lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or any water management 322

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323 district in its governmental or proprietary capacity or from 324 complying with applicable local pollution control programs 325 authorized under this chapter or other requirements of county 326 and municipal governments:

327 (s) The construction, installation, operation, or
328 maintenance of floating vessel platforms or floating boat lifts,
329 provided that such structures:

330 1. Float at all times in the water for the sole purpose of 331 supporting a vessel so that the vessel is out of the water when 332 not in use;

333 2. Are wholly contained within a boat slip previously 334 permitted under ss. 403.91-403.929, 1984 Supplement to the 335 Florida Statutes 1983, as amended, or part IV of chapter 373, or 336 do not exceed a combined total of 500 square feet, or 200 square feet in an Outstanding Florida Water, when associated with a 337 338 dock that is exempt under this subsection or associated with a permitted dock with no defined boat slip or attached to a 339 bulkhead on a parcel of land where there is no other docking 340 341 structure, do not exceed a combined total of 500 square feet, or 342 200 square feet in an Outstanding Florida Water;

343 3. Are not used for any commercial purpose or for mooring 344 vessels that remain in the water when not in use, and do not 345 substantially impede the flow of water, create a navigational 346 hazard, or unreasonably infringe upon the riparian rights of 347 adjacent property owners, as defined in s. 253.141;

348 4. Are constructed and used so as to minimize adverse349 impacts to submerged lands, wetlands, shellfish areas, aquatic

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350 plant and animal species, and other biological communities, 351 including locating such structures in areas where no seagrasses 352 <u>are least dense</u> exist if such areas are present adjacent to the 353 dock or bulkhead; and

5. Are not constructed in areas specifically prohibited for boat mooring under conditions of a permit issued in accordance with ss. 403.91-403.929, 1984 Supplement to the Florida Statutes 1983, as amended, or part IV of chapter 373, or other form of authorization issued by a local government.

Structures that qualify for this exemption are relieved from any 360 361 requirement to obtain permission to use or occupy lands owned by 362 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund 363 and, with the exception of those structures attached to a 364 bulkhead on a parcel of land where there is no docking 365 structure, shall not be subject to any more stringent permitting requirements, registration requirements, or other regulation by 366 any local government. Local governments may require either 367 368 permitting or one-time registration of floating vessel platforms 369 to be attached to a bulkhead on a parcel of land where there is 370 no other docking structure as necessary to ensure compliance 371 with the exemption criteria in this section; to ensure 372 compliance with local ordinances, codes, or regulations relating to building or zoning, which are no more stringent than the 373 exemption criteria in this section or address subjects other 374 375 than subjects addressed by the exemption criteria in this 376 section; and to ensure proper installation, maintenance, and

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377 precautionary or evacuation action following a tropical storm or 378 hurricane watch of a floating vessel platform or floating boat 379 lift that is proposed to be attached to a bulkhead or parcel of 380 land where there is no other docking structure. The exemption provided in this paragraph shall be in addition to the exemption 381 provided in paragraph (b). By January 1, 2003, The department 382 383 shall adopt a general permit by rule for the construction, 384 installation, operation, or maintenance of those floating vessel 385 platforms or floating boat lifts that do not qualify for the 386 exemption provided in this paragraph but do not cause 387 significant adverse impacts to occur individually or 388 cumulatively. The issuance of such general permit shall also 389 constitute permission to use or occupy lands owned by the Board 390 of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. Upon the 391 adoption of the rule creating such general permit, No local government shall impose a more stringent regulation, permitting 392 requirement, registration requirement, or other regulation 393 covered by such general permit. Local governments may require 394 395 either permitting or one-time registration of floating vessel 396 platforms as necessary to ensure compliance with the general 397 permit in this section; to ensure compliance with local ordinances, codes, or regulations relating to building or zoning 398 399 that are no more stringent than the general permit in this section; and to ensure proper installation and maintenance of a 400 401 floating vessel platform or floating boat lift that is proposed 402 to be attached to a bulkhead or parcel of land where there is no

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403 other docking structure on floating vessel platforms or floating 404 boat lifts covered by such general permit. 405 Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 705.101, Florida 406 Statutes, is amended to read: 407 705.101 Definitions.--As used in this chapter: 408 "Abandoned property" means all tangible personal (3) property that does not have an identifiable owner and that has 409 been disposed on public property in a wrecked, inoperative, or 410 411 partially dismantled condition or has no apparent intrinsic value to the rightful owner. The term includes derelict vessels 412 413 as defined in s. 823.11(1) <del>Vessels determined to be derelict by</del> 414 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or a county or 415 municipality in accordance with the provisions of s. 823.11 are included within this definition. 416 Section 10. Subsection (4) of section 705.103, Florida 417 Statutes, is amended to read: 418 705.103 Procedure for abandoned or lost property.--419 The owner of any abandoned or lost property who, after 420 (4)421 notice as provided in this section, does not remove such 422 property within the specified period shall be liable to the law 423 enforcement agency for all costs of removal, storage, and destruction of such property, less any salvage value obtained by 424 425 disposal of the property. Upon final disposition of the 426 property, the law enforcement officer shall notify the owner, if known, of the amount owed. In the case of an abandoned vessel 427 428 boat or motor vehicle, any person who neglects or refuses to pay 429 such amount is not entitled to be issued a certificate of

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430 registration for such vessel boat or motor vehicle, or any other 431 vessel boat or motor vehicle, until such costs have been paid. The law enforcement officer shall supply the Department of 432 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with a list of persons whose 433 vessel boat registration privileges or whose motor vehicle 434 435 privileges have been revoked under this subsection. Neither the department nor any other person acting as agent thereof shall 436 issue a certificate of registration to a person whose vessel 437 438 boat or motor vehicle registration privileges have been revoked, as provided by this subsection, until such costs have been paid. 439 Section 11. Section 823.11, Florida Statutes, is amended 440 to read: 441 442 823.11 Abandoned and derelict vessels; removal; penalty.--443 (1)"Derelict vessel" means any vessel, as defined in s. 327.02, that is left stored or abandoned: 444 In a wrecked, junked, or substantially dismantled 445 (a) condition upon any public waters of this state. 446 447 (b) At any port in this state without the consent of the 448 agency having jurisdiction thereof. 449 Docked or grounded at or beached upon the property of (C) 450 another without the consent of the owner of the property. It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to 451 (2) 452 store, leave, or abandon any derelict vessel as defined in this 453 section in this state or leave any vessel as defined by maritime 454 law in a wrecked, junked, or substantially dismantled condition 455 or abandoned upon or in any public water or at any port in this 456 state without the consent of the agency having jurisdiction

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457 thereof, or docked at any private property without the 458 of the owner of such property. 459 (3) (a) (2) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its officers and all law enforcement officers as specified 460 in s. 327.70 are is designated as the agency of the state 461 462 authorized and empowered to remove or cause to be removed any 463 abandoned or derelict vessel from public waters in any instance 464 when the same obstructs or threatens to obstruct navigation or 465 in any way constitutes a danger to the environment. Removal of 466 vessels pursuant to this section may be funded by grants 467 provided in ss. 206.606 and 376.15. The Fish and Wildlife 468 Conservation Commission is directed to implement a plan for the 469 procurement of any available federal disaster funds and to use 470 such funds for the removal of derelict vessels. All costs 471 incurred by the commission or other law enforcement agency in 472 the removal of any abandoned or derelict vessel as set out above shall be recoverable against the owner thereof. The Department 473 of Legal Affairs shall represent the commission in such actions. 474 As provided in s. 705.103(4), any person who neglects or refuses 475 476 to pay such amount is not entitled to be issued a certificate of 477 registration for such vessel or for any other vessel or motor vehicle until the costs have been paid. 478 479 When a derelict vessel is docked or grounded at or (b) 480 beached upon private property without the consent of the owner 481 of the property, the owner of the property may remove the vessel at the vessel owner's expense 60 days after compliance with the 482 483 notice requirements specified in s. 328.17(5). The private

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484 property owner may not hinder reasonable efforts by the vessel 485 owner or agent to remove the vessel. Any notice given pursuant 486 to this paragraph shall be presumed delivered when it is 487 deposited with the United States Postal Service, certified, and properly addressed with prepaid postage. Pursuant to an 488 489 agreement with the governing body of a county or municipality, 490 and upon a finding by the commission that the county or 491 municipality is competent to undertake said responsibilities, 492 the commission may delegate to the county or municipality its authority to remove or cause to be removed an abandoned or 493 494 derelict vessel from public waters within the county or 495 municipality. 496 (4) (4) (3) Any person, firm, or corporation violating this act 497 commits is quilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall 498 be punished as provided by law. Conviction under this section shall not bar the assessment and collection of the civil penalty 499 provided in s. 376.16 for violation of s. 376.15. The court 500 501 having jurisdiction over the criminal offense, notwithstanding 502 any jurisdictional limitations on the amount in controversy, may 503 order the imposition of such civil penalty in addition to any 504 sentence imposed for the first criminal offense. 505 Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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