

By the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation;
and Senator Saunders

592-04966-08

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to a review of the Fish and Wildlife
3 Conservation Commission under the Florida Government
4 Accountability Act; reenacting s. 20.331, F.S., relating
5 to the establishment of the commission; amending ss.
6 328.48 and 328.56, F.S., relating to vessel registration
7 and vessel registration numbers; clarifying the term "non-
8 motor-powered vessel" for purposes of an exception from
9 registration requirements; amending s. 328.72, F.S.,
10 relating to vessel registration fees; increasing such fees
11 for all vessels requiring registration; providing for
12 future adjustment of the vessel registration fees based on
13 the percentage change in the Consumer Pricing Index;
14 requiring the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to
15 report to the Legislature on how the increase in fees will
16 be used; amending s. 372.57, F.S., relating to
17 recreational hunting and fishing licenses; providing for
18 future adjustment of the recreational hunting and fishing
19 licenses based on the percentage change in the Consumer
20 Pricing Index; requiring the Fish and Wildlife
21 Conservation Commission to report to the Legislature on
22 how the increase in license and permit fees will be used;
23 requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
24 Government Accountability to review and report on the Fish
25 and Wildlife Conservation Commission's public relations,
26 outreach, and education activities and staffing levels by
27 a date certain; requiring the Fish and Wildlife
28 Conservation Commission to review and report on specific
29 activities within the agency by a date certain; repealing

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30 sections 372.107, 372.5714, 372.673, and 372.993, F.S.,
31 relating to the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund, the
32 Waterfowl Advisory Council, the Florida Panther Technical
33 Advisory Council, and the regulation of certain land-based
34 commercial and recreational fishing activities; providing
35 an effective date.

36
37 WHEREAS, ss. 11.901-11.920, Florida Statutes, the Florida
38 Government Accountability Act, subjects the Fish and Wildlife
39 Conversation Commission and its respective advisory committees
40 to a sunset review process in order to determine whether the
41 agency should be retained, modified, or abolished, and

42 WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Conversation Commission
43 produced a report providing specific information, as enumerated
44 in s. 11.906, Florida Statutes, and

45 WHEREAS, upon receipt of the report, the Joint Legislative
46 Sunset Committee and committees of the Senate and the House of
47 Representatives assigned to act as sunset review committees
48 reviewed the report and requested studies by the Office of
49 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and

50 WHEREAS, based on the commission's report, studies of the
51 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
52 Accountability, and public input, the Joint Legislative Sunset
53 Committee and legislative sunset review committees made
54 recommendations on the abolition, continuation, or
55 reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Conversation Commission
56 and its advisory committees; on the need for the functions
57 performed by the agency and its advisory committees; and on the
58 consolidation, transfer, or reorganization of programs within

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59 | the Fish and Wildlife Conversation Commission, NOW, THEREFORE,

60 |
61 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

62 |
63 | Section 1. Section 20.331, Florida Statutes, is reenacted.

64 | Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 328.48, Florida
65 | Statutes, is amended to read:

66 | 328.48 Vessel registration, application, certificate,
67 | number, decal, duplicate certificate.--

68 | (2) All vessels used on the waters of the state must be
69 | registered, either commercial or recreational as defined in this
70 | chapter, except as follows:

71 | (a) A vessel used exclusively on private lakes and ponds.

72 | (b) A vessel owned by the United States Government.

73 | (c) A vessel used exclusively as a ship's lifeboat.

74 | (d) A non-motor-powered vessel less than 16 feet in length,
75 | and any non-motor-powered canoe, kayak, racing shell, or rowing
76 | scull, regardless of length.

77 | Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 328.56, Florida
78 | Statutes, is amended to read:

79 | 328.56 Vessel registration number.--Each vessel that is
80 | used on the waters of the state must display a commercial or
81 | recreational Florida registration number, unless it is:

82 | (4) A non-motor-powered vessel less than 16 feet in length,
83 | and any non-motor-powered canoe, kayak, racing shell, or rowing
84 | scull, regardless of length.

85 | Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 328.72, Florida
86 | Statutes, is amended to read:

87 | 328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges;

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88 surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.--

89 (1) VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.--

90 (a) Vessels that are required to be registered shall be
91 classified for registration purposes according to the following
92 schedule, and the registration certificate fee shall be in the
93 following amounts:

94 Class A-1--Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes to
95 which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of length:
96 \$5.50 ~~\$3.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

97 Class A-2--12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in length:
98 \$16.25 ~~10.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

99 (To county): 2.85 for each 12-month period registered.

100 Class 1--16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in length:
101 \$28.75 ~~18.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

102 (To county): 8.85 for each 12-month period registered.

103 Class 2--26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in length:
104 \$78.25 ~~50.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

105 (To county): 32.85 for each 12-month period registered.

106 Class 3--40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in length:
107 \$127.75 ~~82.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

108 (To county): 56.85 for each 12-month period registered.

109 Class 4--65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in length:
110 \$152.75 ~~98.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

111 (To county): 68.85 for each 12-month period registered.

112 Class 5--110 feet or more in length: \$189.75 ~~122.50~~ for each
113 12-month period registered.

114 (To county): 86.85 for each 12-month period registered.

115 Dealer registration certificate: \$25.50 ~~16.50~~ for each 12-
116 month period registered.

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117
118 The county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived from
119 recreational vessels only.

120 (b) In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, vessel
121 registration fees shall be adjusted by the percentage change in
122 the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers since the fees
123 were last adjusted, unless otherwise provided by general law. By
124 February 1 of each year in which an adjustment is scheduled to
125 occur, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall submit
126 a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
127 House of Representatives detailing how the increase in vessel
128 registration fees will be used within the agency. The vessel
129 registration fee increases shall take effect July 1 of each
130 adjustment year.

131 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 372.57, Florida
132 Statutes, is amended to read:

133 372.57 Recreational licenses, permits, and authorization
134 numbers; fees established.--

135 (1) LICENSE, PERMIT, OR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER REQUIRED.--

136 (a) Except as provided in s. 372.562, no person shall take
137 game, freshwater or saltwater fish, or fur-bearing animals within
138 this state without having first obtained a license, permit, or
139 authorization number and paid the fees set forth in this chapter.
140 Such license, permit, or authorization number shall authorize the
141 person to whom it is issued to take game, freshwater or saltwater
142 fish, or fur-bearing animals, and participate in outdoor
143 recreational activities in accordance with the laws of the state
144 and rules of the commission.

145 (b) In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, license and

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146 permit fees established in subsections (4) and (5) shall be
147 adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for
148 All Urban Consumers since the fees were last adjusted, unless
149 otherwise provided by general law. By February 1 of each year in
150 which an adjustment is scheduled to occur, the Fish and Wildlife
151 Conservation Commission shall submit a report to the President of
152 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
153 detailing how the increase in license and permit fees will be
154 used within the agency. The license and permit fee increases
155 shall take effect July 1 of each adjustment year.

156 Section 6. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
157 Government Accountability is directed to review and compare the
158 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's public relations and
159 outreach staffing levels in its Executive Direction and
160 Administrative Services division to an agency of similar makeup
161 and size in order to determine whether any efficiencies can be
162 achieved through restructuring or downsizing. The office shall
163 provide its findings and recommendations in the form of a report
164 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
165 Representatives by January 1, 2009.

166 Section 7. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
167 Government Accountability is directed to review the outreach and
168 education activities of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
169 Commission's Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Fisheries Management
170 divisions in order to determine if there is any duplication of
171 efforts with other state agencies or if efficiencies can be
172 achieved through restructuring or combining programs. The office
173 shall provide its findings and recommendations in the form of a
174 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the

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175 House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

176 Section 8. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is
177 directed to complete a 5-year "Air Station" conceptual plan,
178 designed to improve agency aircraft operations and maintenance
179 efficiency, and provide its finding and recommendations in a
180 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
181 House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

182 Section 9. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is
183 directed to review its current land management activities and
184 provide recommendations for combining duplicative activities with
185 other state agencies or for outsourcing activities in order to
186 gain efficiencies or create cost-saving benefits. The commission
187 shall provide its findings and recommendations in a report to the
188 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
189 Representatives by January 1, 2009.

190 Section 10. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
191 is directed to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the activities
192 of the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), such as, but
193 not limited to, its geographic information system (GIS) technical
194 support, and provide recommendations on any efficiencies or cost-
195 savings benefits that may be gained from outsourcing those
196 activities. The commission shall provide its findings and
197 recommendations in a report to the President of the Senate and
198 the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

199 Section 11. Sections 372.107, 372.5714, 372.673, and
200 372.992, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

201 Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.