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

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30 repealing sections 372.107, 372.5714, 372.673, and
31 372.992, F.S., relating to the Federal Law Enforcement
32 Trust Fund, the Waterfowl Advisory Council, the Florida
33 Panther Technical Advisory Council, and the Nongame
34 Wildlife Advisory Council; providing an effective date.
35

36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
37

38 Section 1. Section 20.331, Florida Statutes, is reenacted.

39 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 328.48, Florida
40 Statutes, is amended to read:

41 328.48 Vessel registration, application, certificate,
42 number, decal, duplicate certificate.--

43 (2) All vessels used on the waters of the state must be
44 registered, either commercial or recreational as defined in this
45 chapter, except as follows:

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

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

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

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

52 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 328.56, Florida
53 Statutes, is amended to read:

54 328.56 Vessel registration number.--Each vessel that is
55 used on the waters of the state must display a commercial or
56 recreational Florida registration number, unless it is:

57 (4) A non-motor-powered vessel less than 16 feet in length,
58 and any non-motor-powered canoe, kayak, racing shell, or rowing

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59 scull, regardless of length.

60 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (14) of section 328.72,
61 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

62 328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges;
63 surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.--

64 (1) VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.--

65 (a) Vessels that are required to be registered shall be
66 classified for registration purposes according to the following
67 schedule, and the registration certificate fee shall be in the
68 following amounts:

69 Class A-1--Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes to
70 which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of length:
71 \$5.50 ~~\$3.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

72 Class A-2--12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in length:
73 \$16.25 ~~10.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

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

75 Class 1--16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in length:
76 \$28.75 ~~18.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

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

78 Class 2--26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in length:
79 \$78.25 ~~50.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

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

81 Class 3--40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in length:
82 \$127.75 ~~82.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

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

84 Class 4--65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in length:
85 \$152.75 ~~98.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

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

87 Class 5--110 feet or more in length: \$189.75 ~~122.50~~ for each

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88 12-month period registered.

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

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

92

93 The county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived from
94 recreational vessels only.

95 (b) In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, vessel
96 registration fees shall be adjusted by the percentage change in
97 the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers since the fees
98 were last adjusted, unless otherwise provided by general law. By
99 February 1 of each year in which an adjustment is scheduled to
100 occur, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall submit
101 a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
102 House of Representatives detailing how the increase in vessel
103 registration fees will be used within the agency. The vessel
104 registration fee increases shall take effect July 1 of each
105 adjustment year.

106 (14) EXEMPTIONS.--The following vessels are exempt from
107 provisions of subsection (1):

108 (a) A vessel that is Vessels owned and operated by Sea
109 Explorer or Sea Scout units of the Boy Scouts of America, the
110 Girl Scouts of America, the Florida Association of Christian
111 Child Caring Agencies, Inc., Safe Harbor Haven, Inc., or the
112 Associated Marine Institutes, Inc., and its affiliates., ~~or which~~
113 are

114 (b) An antique vessel ~~vessels~~ as defined in paragraph
115 (2) (a) ~~are exempt from the provisions of subsection (1).~~

116 (c) A non-motor-powered sailing vessel that is owned by a

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117 nonprofit entity and used exclusively for teaching boating
118 safety, boat handling, or seamanship skills, including the racing
119 of such sailing vessels.

120
121 Such vessels shall be issued certificates of registration and
122 numbers upon application and payment of the service fee provided
123 in subsection (7).

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

126 372.57 Recreational licenses, permits, and authorization
127 numbers; fees established.--

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

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

138 (b) In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, license and
139 permit fees established in subsections (4) and (5) shall be
140 adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for
141 All Urban Consumers since the fees were last adjusted, unless
142 otherwise provided by general law. By February 1 of each year in
143 which an adjustment is scheduled to occur, the Fish and Wildlife
144 Conservation Commission shall submit a report to the President of
145 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

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146 detailing how the increase in license and permit fees will be
147 used within the agency. The license and permit fee increases
148 shall take effect July 1 of each adjustment year.

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

159 Section 7. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
160 Government Accountability is directed to review the outreach and
161 education activities of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
162 Commission's Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Fisheries Management
163 divisions in order to determine if there is any duplication of
164 efforts with other state agencies or if efficiencies can be
165 achieved through restructuring or combining programs. The office
166 shall provide its findings and recommendations in the form of a
167 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
168 House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

169 Section 8. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is
170 directed to complete a 5-year "Air Station" conceptual plan,
171 designed to improve agency aircraft operations and maintenance
172 efficiency, and provide its finding and recommendations in a
173 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
174 House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

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

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

192 Section 11. Sections 372.107, 372.5714, 372.673, and
193 372.992, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

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