

By Senator Saunders

37-03761-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to vessel safety; amending s. 327.50,  
3 F.S.; revising the requirements for floatation devices;  
4 providing an effective date.

5  
6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

7  
8 Section 1. Section 327.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
9 read:

10 327.50 Vessel safety regulations; equipment and lighting  
11 requirements.--

12 (1) (a) The owner and operator of every vessel on the waters  
13 of this state shall carry, store, maintain, and use safety  
14 equipment in accordance with current United States Coast Guard  
15 safety equipment requirements as specified in the Code of Federal  
16 Regulations, unless expressly exempted by the department.

17 (b) No person shall operate a vessel less than 26 feet in  
18 length on the waters of this state unless every person under 6  
19 years of age on board the vessel is wearing an appropriate  
20 personal floatation device approved by the ~~a type I, type II, or~~  
21 ~~type III Coast Guard approved personal flotation device~~ while  
22 such vessel is underway. For the purpose of this section,  
23 "underway" shall mean at all times except when a vessel is  
24 anchored, moored, made fast to the shore, or aground.

25 (2) No person shall operate a vessel on the waters of this  
26 state unless said vessel is equipped with properly serviceable  
27 lights and shapes required by the navigation rules.

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28           (3) The use of sirens or flashing, occulting, or revolving  
29 lights on any vessel is prohibited, except as expressly provided  
30 in the navigation rules or annexes thereto.

31           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.