

HB 4211

2011

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to vessel safety regulations; amending s.  
 3           327.50, F.S.; removing state requirements for certain  
 4           children to wear a personal flotation device while on  
 5           board certain vessels; providing an effective date.

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

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 9           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 327.50, Florida  
 10          Statutes, is amended to read:

11           327.50 Vessel safety regulations; equipment and lighting  
 12          requirements.—

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

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

26           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.