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A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to commercial parasailing; amending s. 3 327.02, F.S.; providing definitions; creating s. 327.375, 4 F.S.; providing a short title; requiring the owner of a 5 vessel engaged in commercial parasailing to obtain and 6 carry an insurance policy; providing minimum coverage for 7 the insurance policy; providing requirements for proof of 8 insurance; specifying the insurance information that must be provided to each rider; providing for the launch and 9 10 recovery of riders from a towing vessel; requiring a 11 person engaged in operating a vessel for commercial parasailing to have certain licenses; requiring certain 12 equipment; prohibiting commercial parasailing in certain 13 14 areas, under certain weather conditions, and during 15 certain hours; requiring a safety briefing for passengers 16 and parasail riders; providing penalties; amending ss. 320.08, 327.391, 328.17, 342.07, 713.78, and 715.07, F.S.; 17 conforming cross-references to changes made by the act; 18 19 providing an effective date. 20 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 22 23 Section 1. Section 327.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to 24 read: 25 327.02 Definitions of terms used in this chapter and in 26 chapter 328.-As used in this chapter and in chapter 328, unless 27 the context clearly requires a different meaning, the term: 28 "Airboat" means a vessel that is primarily designed (1)Page 1 of 17

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hb0451-00

for use in shallow waters and powered by an internal combustion engine with an airplane-type propeller mounted above the stern and used to push air across a set of rudders.

32 (2) "Alien" means a person who is not a citizen of the33 United States.

(3) "Boating accident" means a collision, accident, or
casualty involving a vessel in or upon, or entering into or
exiting from, the water, including capsizing, collision with
another vessel or object, sinking, personal injury, death,
disappearance of any person from on board under circumstances
<u>that which</u> indicate the possibility of death or injury, or
property damage to any vessel or dock.

(4) "Canoe" means a light, narrow vessel with curved sides and with both ends pointed. A canoe-like vessel with a transom may not be excluded from the definition of a canoe if the width of its transom is less than 45 percent of the width of its beam or it has been designated as a canoe by the United States Coast Guard.

47 "Commercial parasailing" means providing or offering (5) 48 to provide, for consideration, any activity involving the towing 49 of a person by a motorboat when: 50 (a) One or more persons are tethered to the towing vessel; 51 The person or persons ascend above the water; and (b) (C) 52 The person or persons remain suspended above the water 53 while the vessel is underway. 54 (6) (5) "Commercial vessel" means: 55 (a) Any vessel primarily engaged in the taking or landing 56 of saltwater fish or saltwater products or freshwater fish or Page 2 of 17

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57 freshwater products, or any vessel licensed pursuant to s. 58 379.361 from which commercial quantities of saltwater products 59 are harvested, from within and without the waters of this state 60 for sale either to the consumer, retail dealer, or wholesale 61 dealer.

62 (b) Any other vessel, except a recreational vessel as63 defined in this section.

64 (7) (6) "Commission" means the Fish and Wildlife
 65 Conservation Commission.

66 <u>(8) (7)</u> "Dealer" means any person authorized by the 67 Department of Revenue to buy, sell, resell, or otherwise 68 distribute vessels. Such person shall have a valid sales tax 69 certificate of registration issued by the Department of Revenue 70 and a valid commercial or occupational license required by any 71 county, municipality, or political subdivision of the state in 72 which the person operates.

(9) (8) "Division" means the Division of Law Enforcement of
 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

75 <u>(10)(9)</u> "Documented vessel" means a vessel for which a 76 valid certificate of documentation is outstanding pursuant to 46 77 C.F.R. part 67.

78 <u>(11)(10)</u> "Floating structure" means a floating entity, 79 with or without accommodations built thereon, which is not 80 primarily used as a means of transportation on water but which 81 serves purposes or provides services typically associated with a 82 structure or other improvement to real property. The term 83 "floating structure" includes, but is not limited to, each 84 entity used as a residence, place of business or office with

### Page 3 of 17

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hb0451-00

85 public access, hotel or motel, restaurant or lounge, clubhouse, meeting facility, storage or parking facility, mining platform, 86 87 dredge, dragline, or similar facility or entity represented as 88 such. Floating structures are expressly excluded from the 89 definition of the term "vessel" provided in this section. 90 Incidental movement upon water or resting partially or entirely 91 on the bottom shall not, in and of itself, preclude an entity 92 from classification as a floating structure.

93 (12) (11) "Florida Intracoastal Waterway" means the 94 Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the Georgia state line north of Fernandina to Miami; the Port Canaveral lock and canal to the 95 Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; the Atlantic Intracoastal 96 97 Waterway, Miami to Key West; the Okeechobee Waterway, Stuart to 98 Fort Myers; the St. Johns River, Jacksonville to Sanford; the 99 Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Anclote to Fort Myers; the Gulf 100 Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to Tampa Bay; Carrabelle to Anclote open bay section (using Gulf of Mexico); the Gulf 101 102 Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to the Alabama state line west 103 of Pensacola; and the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint 104 Rivers in Florida.

105 (13) (12) "Homemade vessel" means any vessel built after 106 October 31, 1972, for which a federal hull identification number 107 is not required to be assigned by the manufacturer pursuant to 108 federal law, or any vessel constructed or assembled prior to 109 November 1, 1972, by other than a licensed manufacturer for his 110 or her own use or the use of a specific person. A vessel 111 assembled from a manufacturer's kit or constructed from an unfinished manufactured hull shall be considered to be a 112

Page 4 of 17

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113 homemade vessel if such a vessel is not required to have a hull 114 identification number assigned by the United States Coast Guard. 115 A rebuilt or reconstructed vessel shall in no event be construed 116 to be a homemade vessel.

117 <u>(14)(13)</u> "Houseboat" means any vessel <u>that</u> which is used 118 primarily as a residence for a minimum of 21 days during any 30-119 day period, in a county of this state, and this residential use 120 of the vessel is to the preclusion of the use of the vessel as a 121 means of transportation.

122 <u>(15)(14)</u> "Length" means the measurement from end to end 123 over the deck parallel to the centerline excluding sheer.

124 <u>(16) (15)</u> "Lien" means a security interest <u>that</u> which is 125 reserved or created by a written agreement recorded with the 126 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles pursuant to s. 127 328.15 which secures payment or performance of an obligation and 128 is generally valid against third parties.

129 <u>(17) (16)</u> "Lienholder" means a person holding a security 130 interest in a vessel, which interest is recorded with the 131 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles pursuant to s. 132 328.15.

133

(18) (17) "Live-aboard vessel" means:

(a) Any vessel used solely as a residence and not fornavigation;

(b) Any vessel represented as a place of business or aprofessional or other commercial enterprise; or

138 (c) Any vessel for which a declaration of domicile has139 been filed pursuant to s. 222.17.

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# Page 5 of 17

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141 A commercial fishing boat is expressly excluded from the term 142 "live-aboard vessel."

143 <u>(19) (18)</u> "Livery vessel" means any vessel leased, rented, 144 or chartered to another for consideration.

145 <u>(20) (19)</u> "Manufactured vessel" means any vessel built 146 after October 31, 1972, for which a federal hull identification 147 number is required pursuant to federal law, or any vessel 148 constructed or assembled prior to November 1, 1972, by a duly 149 licensed manufacturer.

150 <u>(21)(20)</u> "Marina" means a licensed commercial facility 151 <u>that</u> which provides secured public moorings or dry storage for 152 vessels on a leased basis. A commercial establishment authorized 153 by a licensed vessel manufacturer as a dealership shall be 154 considered a marina for nonjudicial sale purposes.

155 <u>(22)(21)</u> "Marine sanitation device" means any equipment 156 other than a toilet, for installation on board a vessel, which 157 is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage, and 158 any process to treat such sewage. Marine sanitation device Types 159 I, II, and III shall be defined as provided in 33 C.F.R. part 160 159.

161 (23)(22) "Marker" means any channel mark or other aid to 162 navigation, information or regulatory mark, isolated danger 163 mark, safe water mark, special mark, inland waters obstruction 164 mark, or mooring buoy in, on, or over the waters of the state or 165 the shores thereof, and includes, but is not limited to, a sign, 166 beacon, buoy, or light.

167 (24) (23) "Motorboat" means any vessel equipped with 168 machinery for propulsion, irrespective of whether the propulsion Page 6 of 17

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169 machinery is in actual operation.

170 <u>(25)</u> (24) "Muffler" means an automotive-style sound-171 suppression device or system designed to effectively abate the 172 sound of exhaust gases emitted from an internal combustion 173 engine and prevent excessive sound when installed on such an 174 engine.

175 (26) (25) "Navigation rules" means the International 176 Navigational Rules Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C. appendix following s. 177 1602, as amended, including the annexes thereto, for vessels on waters outside of established navigational lines of demarcation 178 179 as specified in 33 C.F.R. part 80 or the Inland Navigational 180 Rules Act of 1980, 33 U.S.C. ss. 2001 et seq., as amended, including the annexes thereto, for vessels on all waters not 181 outside of such lines of demarcation. 182

183 <u>(27) (26)</u> "Nonresident" means a citizen of the United 184 States who has not established residence in this state and has 185 not continuously resided in this state for 1 year and in one 186 county for the 6 months immediately preceding the initiation of 187 a vessel titling or registration action.

188 <u>(28) (27)</u> "Operate" means to be in charge of or in command 189 of or in actual physical control of a vessel upon the waters of 190 this state, or to exercise control over or to have 191 responsibility for a vessel's navigation or safety while the 192 vessel is underway upon the waters of this state, or to control 193 or steer a vessel being towed by another vessel upon the waters 194 of the state.

195(29) (28)"Owner" means a person, other than a lienholder,196having the property in or title to a vessel. The term includes a

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Page 7 of 17
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197 person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel subject to 198 an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement 199 and securing payment of performance of an obligation, but the 200 term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

201 <u>(30)</u> (29) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, 202 corporation, association, or other entity.

203 <u>(31)(30)</u> "Personal watercraft" means a vessel less than 16 204 feet in length which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet 205 pump, as its primary source of motive power and which is 206 designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or 207 kneeling on the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner 208 of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

209 <u>(32)(31)</u> "Portable toilet" means a device consisting of a 210 lid, seat, containment vessel, and support structure which that 211 is specifically designed to receive, retain, and discharge human 212 waste and which that is capable of being removed from a vessel 213 by hand.

214 <u>(33)(32)</u> "Prohibited activity" means such activity as will 215 impede or disturb navigation or creates a safety hazard on 216 waterways of this state.

217 <u>(34) "Quick release" means a device that enables the</u> 218 <u>tethered or connected person to quickly release or remove</u> 219 <u>himself or herself from his or her support system.</u>

220 <u>(35)(33)</u> "Racing shell," "rowing scull," or "racing kayak" 221 means a manually propelled vessel <u>that which</u> is recognized by 222 national or international racing associations for use in 223 competitive racing and in which all occupants, with the 224 exception of a coxswain, if one is provided, row, scull, or

# Page 8 of 17

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hb0451-00

225 paddle, and that which is not designed to carry and does not 226 carry any equipment not solely for competitive racing.

227 <u>(36) (34)</u> "Recreational vessel" means any vessel:
228 (a) Manufactured and used primarily for noncommercial
229 purposes; or

(b) Leased, rented, or chartered to a person for theperson's noncommercial use.

232 <u>(37)(35)</u> "Registration" means a state operating license on 233 a vessel which is issued with an identifying number, an annual 234 certificate of registration, and a decal designating the year 235 for which a registration fee is paid.

236 <u>(38)(36)</u> "Resident" means a citizen of the United States 237 who has established residence in this state and has continuously 238 resided in this state for 1 year and in one county for the 6 239 months immediately preceding the initiation of a vessel titling 240 or registration action.

241 <u>(39)(37)</u> "Sailboat" means any vessel whose sole source of 242 propulsion is the wind.

243 (40) "Support system" means a device used to tether,
 244 connect, or otherwise suspend a person under the canopy.

245 (41) "Sustained wind speed" means a wind speed determined 246 by averaging the observed wind speed rounded to the nearest 247 whole knot over a 2-minute period.

248 <u>(42)(38)</u> "Unclaimed vessel" means any undocumented vessel, 249 including its machinery, rigging, and accessories, which is in 250 the physical possession of any marina, garage, or repair shop 251 for repairs, improvements, or other work with the knowledge of 252 the vessel owner and for which the costs of such services have

## Page 9 of 17

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253 been unpaid for a period in excess of 90 days from the date 254 written notice of the completed work is given by the marina, 255 garage, or repair shop to the vessel owner.

256 <u>(43)(39)</u> "Vessel" is synonymous with boat as referenced in 257 s. 1(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution and includes every 258 description of watercraft, barge, and airboat, other than a 259 seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means 260 of transportation on water.

261 <u>(44)(40)</u> "Waters of this state" means any navigable waters 262 of the United States within the territorial limits of this 263 state, and the marginal sea adjacent to this state and the high 264 seas when navigated as a part of a journey or ride to or from 265 the shore of this state, and all the inland lakes, rivers, and 266 canals under the jurisdiction of this state.

267 Section 2. Section 327.375, Florida Statutes, is created 268 to read:

269

327.375 Commercial parasailing.-

270 (1) This section may be cited as the "Alejandra White 271 Act."

272 (2) The owner of a vessel engaged in commercial 273 parasailing may not offer or provide for consideration any 274 parasailing activity unless the owner first obtains and carries 275 in full force and effect an insurance policy, from an insurance 276 carrier licensed in this state, insuring against any accident, 277 loss, injury, property damage, death, or other casualty caused 278 by or resulting from any commercial parasailing activity. The 279 insurance policy must provide coverage of at least \$1 million 280 per person, per event. Proof of insurance must be available for

Page 10 of 17

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| 281 | inspection at the location where commercial parasailing is       |
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| 282 | offered or provided for consideration and each customer who      |
| 283 | requests it shall be provided with the insurance carrier's name  |
| 284 | and address and the insurance policy number.                     |
| 285 | (3) A person engaged in commercial parasailing must meet         |
| 286 | the following requirements:                                      |
| 287 | (a) Commercial parasail operators shall launch riders only       |
| 288 | from and recover riders only to the vessel.                      |
| 289 | (b) A person may not operate a vessel engaged in                 |
| 290 | commercial parasailing on the waters of this state unless the    |
| 291 | person has a current and valid license issued by the United      |
| 292 | States Coast Guard authorizing that person to engage in carrying |
| 293 | passengers for hire. The license must be appropriate for the     |
| 294 | number of passengers carried and the displacement of the vessel. |
| 295 | The license must be carried on the vessel and be available for   |
| 296 | inspection while commercial parasailing activities are           |
| 297 | conducted.   |
| 298 | (c) A person may not operate a vessel for commercial             |
| 299 | parasailing unless an observer 18 years of age or older is       |
| 300 | present in the vessel at all times to monitor the progress of    |
| 301 | any tethered parasail rider and parasail equipment. The observer |
| 302 | may not be a customer, must be attentive to the parasail rider   |
| 303 | or riders and equipment, and may not have any other duties while |
| 304 | the rider or riders are in the water or suspended above the      |
| 305 | water.   |
| 306 | (d) A person may not operate any vessel engaged in               |
| 307 | commercial parasailing unless:                                   |
| 308 | 1. All riders wear an appropriate floatation device              |
| Į   | Page 11 of 17  |

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309 approved by the United States Coast Guard, other than an 310 inflatable device, which is in serviceable condition and of the 311 proper size; 312 2. All riders are equipped with a support system that 313 includes a harness that has a quick release or is a "gondola 314 style" system that allows the rider to quickly self evacuate 315 during an emergency. 316 3. The vessel is in full compliance with all requirements 317 of the United States Coast Guard governing crewing and equipment 318 carriage for passenger-carrying vessels as specified in the Code 319 of Federal Regulations or as otherwise specified by the United 320 States Coast Guard in the vessel's certificate of inspection; 321 and 322 The vessel is equipped with a functional VHF marine 4. 323 transceiver that can monitor National Weather Service forecasts 324 and send and receive and monitor channel 16. 325 No more than two persons may be tethered to the towing (e) 326 vessel and ascend above the water at any time. 327 (f) A person may not operate a vessel towing a commercial 328 parasailing rider on any waters of the state less than 1,800 329 feet from the shore. This restriction applies to the entire 330 commercial parasailing apparatus, including the vessel, towline, 331 and rider. 332 (q) A person may not operate a vessel towing a commercial parasailing rider so that the vessel, towline, or rider comes 333 334 within 400 feet of: 335 1. An anchored vessel; 336 2. A person in the water; or

Page 12 of 17

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337 3. A structure, bridge, power line, wharf, pier, dock, 338 platform, piling, marker, or other similar object. 339 (h) A person may not operate any vessel towing a parasail 340 or engage in parasailing within 100 feet of the marked channel 341 of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway. 342 (i) Commercial parasailing is prohibited when the current 343 conditions or those forecasted by the National Weather Service 344 include a sustained wind speed of 20 knots or higher in the area 345 of operation, rain or heavy fog that results in reduced visibility of less than 0.5 miles, or a known lightning storm 346 347 within 7 miles of the parasailing area. 348 (j) The vessel captain shall use all available means to 349 determine prevailing and forecasted weather conditions and 350 record this information in a weather log each time passengers 351 are to be taken out on the water. The weather log must be 352 available for inspection at all times at the place of business. 353 Towlines used for commercial parasailing must be rated (k) for a tensile strength that exceeds 4,800 pounds, must be double 354 355 braided, low-stretch type, and may not exceed 800 feet in 356 length. 357 Each passenger and parasail rider must be given a (1) 358 safety briefing before embarking or before the parasail activity 359 commences. This briefing must include a description of the 360 equipment, the parasail activity, inherent risks, and 361 instruction on how to safely evacuate from the passenger support 362 during a water landing. (m) A person operating a vessel for commercial parasailing 363 364 may not engage in parasailing, or any similar activity at any

Page 13 of 17

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HB 451 2011 time between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. (4) A person or operator who violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5) of section 320.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 320.08 License taxes.-Except as otherwise provided herein, there are hereby levied and imposed annual license taxes for the operation of motor vehicles, mopeds, motorized bicycles as defined in s. 316.003(2), tri-vehicles as defined in s. 316.003, and mobile homes, as defined in s. 320.01, which shall be paid to and collected by the department or its agent upon the registration or renewal of registration of the following: SEMITRAILERS, FEES ACCORDING TO GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT; (5) SCHOOL BUSES; SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES.-A wrecker, as defined in s. 320.01(40), which is used (d) to tow a vessel as defined in s. 327.02(43) s. 327.02(39), a disabled, abandoned, stolen-recovered, or impounded motor vehicle as defined in s. 320.01(38), or a replacement motor vehicle as defined in s. 320.01(39): \$41 flat, of which \$11 shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 327.391, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 327.391 Airboats regulated.-The exhaust of every internal combustion engine used (1)391 on any airboat operated on the waters of this state shall be provided with an automotive-style factory muffler, underwater Page 14 of 17

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393 exhaust, or other manufactured device capable of adequately 394 muffling the sound of the exhaust of the engine as described in 395 <u>s. 327.02(25)</u> <del>s. 327.02(24)</del>. The use of cutouts or flex pipe as 396 the sole source of muffling is prohibited, except as provided in 397 subsection (4). Any person who violates this subsection commits 398 a noncriminal infraction punishable as provided in s. 327.73(1).

399 Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 328.17, Florida 400 Statutes, is amended to read:

401

328.17 Nonjudicial sale of vessels.-

402 (4) A marina, as defined in <u>s. 327.02(21)</u> <del>s. 327.02(20)</del>, 403 shall have:

404 A possessory lien upon any vessel for storage fees, (a) 405 dockage fees, repairs, improvements, or other work-related 406 storage charges, and for expenses necessary for preservation of 407 the vessel or expenses reasonably incurred in the sale or other 408 disposition of the vessel. The possessory lien shall attach as 409 of the date the vessel is brought to the marina or as of the 410 date the vessel first occupies rental space at the marina 411 facility.

412 A possessory lien upon any vessel in a wrecked, (b) junked, or substantially dismantled condition, which has been 413 414 left abandoned at a marina, for expenses reasonably incurred in 415 the removal and disposal of the vessel. The possessory lien 416 shall attach as of the date the vessel arrives at the marina or 417 as of the date the vessel first occupies rental space at the 418 marina facility. If the funds recovered from the sale of the 419 vessel, or from the scrap or salvage value of the vessel, are insufficient to cover the expenses reasonably incurred by the 420

# Page 15 of 17

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421 marina in removing and disposing of the vessel, all costs in 422 excess of recovery shall be recoverable against the owner of the 423 vessel. For a vessel damaged as a result of a named storm, the 424 provisions of this paragraph shall be suspended for 60 days 425 following the date the vessel is damaged in the named storm. The 426 operation of the provisions specified in this paragraph run 427 concurrently with, and do not extend, the 60-day notice periods 428 provided in subsections (5) and (7).

Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 342.07, FloridaStatutes, is amended to read:

431 342.07 Recreational and commercial working waterfronts;
432 legislative findings; definitions.-

As used in this section, the term "recreational and 433 (2) 434 commercial working waterfront" means a parcel or parcels of real 435 property which that provide access for water-dependent 436 commercial activities, including hotels and motels as defined in 437 s. 509.242(1), or provide access for the public to the navigable 438 waters of the state. Recreational and commercial working 439 waterfronts require direct access to or a location on, over, or 440 adjacent to a navigable body of water. The term includes water-441 dependent facilities that are open to the public and offer 442 public access by vessels to the waters of the state or that are 443 support facilities for recreational, commercial, research, or 444 governmental vessels. These facilities include public lodging 445 establishments, docks, wharfs, lifts, wet and dry marinas, boat 446 ramps, boat hauling and repair facilities, commercial fishing 447 facilities, boat construction facilities, and other support structures over the water. As used in this section, the term 448

## Page 16 of 17

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hb0451-00

| 449 | "vessel" has the same meaning as in <u>s. 327.02(43)</u> <del>s. 327.02(39)</del> . |
|-----|---|
| 450 | Seaports are excluded from the definition.  |
| 451 | Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section                               |
| 452 | 713.78, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:                                       |
| 453 | 713.78 Liens for recovering, towing, or storing vehicles                            |
| 454 | and vessels   |
| 455 | (1) For the purposes of this section, the term:                                     |
| 456 | (b) "Vessel" means every description of watercraft, barge,                          |
| 457 | and airboat used or capable of being used as a means of                             |
| 458 | transportation on water, other than a seaplane or a "documented                     |
| 459 | vessel" as defined in <u>s. 327.02(10)</u> <del>s. 327.02(9)</del> .                |
| 460 | Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section                               |
| 461 | 715.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:                                       |
| 462 | 715.07 Vehicles or vessels parked on private property;                              |
| 463 | towing  |
| 464 | (1) As used in this section, the term:  |
| 465 | (b) "Vessel" means every description of watercraft, barge,                          |
| 466 | and airboat used or capable of being used as a means of                             |
| 467 | transportation on water, other than a seaplane or a "documented                     |
| 468 | vessel" as defined in <u>s. 327.02(10)</u> <del>s. 327.02(9)</del> .                |
| 469 | Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.                                 |
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