

By Senator Margolis

35-00582-11

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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
4 devices; providing an effective date.

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

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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
16 Federal Regulations, unless expressly exempted by the
17 department.

18 (b) No person shall operate a vessel less than 26 feet in
19 length on the waters of this state unless every person under 6
20 years of age on board the vessel is wearing an appropriate
21 personal floatation device approved by the ~~a type I, type II, or~~
22 ~~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 (2) No person shall operate a vessel on the waters of this
27 state unless said vessel is equipped with properly serviceable
28 lights and shapes required by the navigation rules.

29 (3) The use of sirens or flashing, occulting, or revolving

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30 lights on any vessel is prohibited, except as expressly provided
31 in the navigation rules or annexes thereto.

32 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.