

By Senator Margolis

35-01555-11

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1 A bill to be entitled

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

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

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

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

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

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

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