

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to personal flotation devices;  
 3           amending ss. 327.37, 327.39, and 327.50, F.S.;  
 4           requiring that personal flotation devices be used in  
 5           accordance with the United States Coast Guard approval  
 6           label during operation of certain vessels or personal  
 7           watercraft or while engaged in water skiing,  
 8           parasailing, aquaplaning, and similar activities;  
 9           providing an effective date.

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

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13           Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
 14           327.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15           327.37 Water skis, parasails, aquaplanes, kiteboarding,  
 16           kitesurfing, and moored ballooning regulated.—

17           (2)

18           (b) A person may not engage in water skiing, parasailing,  
 19           aquaplaning, or any similar activity unless such person is  
 20           wearing a noninflatable ~~type I, type II, type III, or type V~~  
 21           personal flotation device approved by the United States Coast  
 22           Guard and used in accordance with the United States Coast Guard  
 23           approval label.

24           Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 327.39, Florida  
 25           Statutes, is amended to read:

26           327.39 Personal watercraft regulated.—

27 (1) A person may not operate a personal watercraft unless  
 28 each person riding on or being towed behind such vessel is  
 29 wearing a ~~type I, type II, type III, or type V~~ personal  
 30 flotation device, other than an inflatable device, approved by  
 31 the United States Coast Guard and used in accordance with the  
 32 United States Coast Guard approval label.

33 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 34 327.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

35 327.50 Vessel safety regulations; equipment and lighting  
 36 requirements.—

37 (1)

38 (b) A ~~No~~ person may not ~~shall~~ operate a vessel less than  
 39 26 feet in length on the waters of this state unless every  
 40 person under 6 years of age on board the vessel is wearing a  
 41 ~~type I, type II, or type III Coast Guard approved~~ personal  
 42 flotation device approved by the United States Coast Guard and  
 43 used in accordance with the United States Coast Guard approval  
 44 label while such vessel is underway. For the purpose of this  
 45 section, "underway" means ~~shall mean~~ at all times except when a  
 46 vessel is anchored, moored, made fast to the shore, or aground.

47 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.