

By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senators Negron, Sachs,  
and Latvala

576-04479-16

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to vessel registrations; amending s.  
3 328.72, F.S.; defining terms; reducing vessel  
4 registration fees for recreational vessels equipped  
5 with certain position indicating and locating beacons;  
6 providing criteria for such reduction; amending s.  
7 328.66, F.S.; clarifying county optional registration  
8 fees; providing an appropriation; providing an  
9 effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
13 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 328.72, Florida  
14 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (18) is added to that  
15 section, to read:

16 328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges;  
17 surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.-

18 (1) VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.-Vessels that are required to  
19 be registered shall be classified for registration purposes  
20 according to the following schedule, and, except as provided in  
21 subsection (18), the registration certificate fee shall be in  
22 the following amounts:

23 (a) Class A-1-Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes  
24 to which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of  
25 length: \$5.50 for each 12-month period registered.

26 (b) Class A-2-12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in  
27 length: \$16.25 for each 12-month period registered.  
28 (To county): 2.85 for each 12-month period registered.

29 (c) Class 1-16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in  
30 length: \$28.75 for each 12-month period registered.  
31 (To county): 8.85 for each 12-month period registered.

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32        (d) Class 2–26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in  
33 length: \$78.25 for each 12-month period registered.

34 (To county): 32.85 for each 12-month period registered.

35        (e) Class 3–40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in  
36 length: \$127.75 for each 12-month period registered.

37 (To county): 56.85 for each 12-month period registered.

38        (f) Class 4–65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in  
39 length: \$152.75 for each 12-month period registered.

40 (To county): 68.85 for each 12-month period registered.

41        (g) Class 5–110 feet or more in length: \$189.75 for each  
42 12-month period registered.

43 (To county): 86.85 for each 12-month period registered.

44        (h) Dealer registration certificate: \$25.50 for each 12-  
45 month period registered.

46 The county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived  
47 from recreational vessels only.

48        (18) REDUCED VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.—

49        (a) For the purposes of this subsection, the term:

50        1. "Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon" means an  
51 electronic device designed to be installed on a vessel which,  
52 when activated, transmits a distress call on a designated  
53 emergency frequency to a satellite receiver and is used by  
54 rescue personnel to locate the position of the signal.

55        2. "Personal Locator Beacon" means an electronic device  
56 designed to be carried on a person which, when activated, will  
57 transmit a distress call on a designated emergency frequency to  
58 a satellite receiver and is used by rescue personnel to locate  
59 the position of the signal.

60        (b) The registration certificate fee imposed pursuant to

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61 subsection (1) for a recreational vessel equipped with an  
62 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon or for a recreational  
63 vessel whose owner owns a Personal Locator Beacon shall be  
64 reduced to the following amounts:

- 65 1. Class A-1: \$2.95 for each 12-month period registered.
- 66 2. Class A-2: \$11.00 for each 12-month period registered.
- 67 3. Class 1: \$20.40 for each 12-month period registered.
- 68 4. Class 2: \$57.50 for each 12-month period registered.
- 69 5. Class 3: \$94.65 for each 12-month period registered.
- 70 6. Class 4: \$113.40 for each 12-month period registered.
- 71 7. Class 5: \$141.15 for each 12-month period registered.

72 (c) A person who owns a Personal Locator Beacon and who  
73 owns more than one recreational vessel may only apply the  
74 applicable reduced fee pursuant to this subsection to one  
75 vessel.

76 (d) In order to qualify for reduced vessel registration  
77 fees pursuant to this subsection, a vessel owner must  
78 demonstrate that the Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon  
79 or Personal Locator Beacon is registered with the National  
80 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under 47 C.F.R. part 80  
81 or part 95. The owner must provide proof of registration from  
82 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

83 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 328.66, Florida  
84 Statutes, is amended to read:

85 328.66 County and municipality optional registration fee.—

86 (1) Any county may impose an annual registration fee on  
87 vessels registered, operated, used, or stored on the waters of  
88 this state within its jurisdiction. This fee shall be 50 percent  
89 of the applicable state registration fee as listed in the s.

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90 328.72(1)(a)-(g) fee schedule, without considering the reduced  
91 vessel registration fee provisions as specified in s.  
92 328.72(18). However, the first \$1 of every registration imposed  
93 under this subsection shall be remitted to the state for deposit  
94 in the Save the Manatee Trust Fund created within the Fish and  
95 Wildlife Conservation Commission, and shall be used only for the  
96 purposes specified in s. 379.2431(4). All other moneys received  
97 from such fee shall be expended for the patrol, regulation, and  
98 maintenance of the lakes, rivers, and waters and for other  
99 boating-related activities of such municipality or county. A  
100 municipality that was imposing a registration fee before April  
101 1, 1984, may continue to levy such fee, notwithstanding the  
102 provisions of this section.

103 Section 3. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of  
104 \$500,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
105 Revenue Fund to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
106 for deposit in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund.  
107 These funds shall be used for the sole purpose of offsetting the  
108 reduction in the base vessel registration fees as provided by  
109 this act.

110 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.