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CS/CS/HB 1211

2018 Legislature

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2 An act relating to airboat regulation; providing a
3 short title; amending s. 327.391, F.S.; requiring a
4 commercial airboat operator to have specified
5 documents onboard the airboat while carrying
6 passengers for hire; providing an exception; providing
7 a penalty; directing the Fish and Wildlife
8 Conservation Commission to adopt rules by a specified
9 date; 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. This act may be cited as "Ellie's Law."

14 Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 327.391,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 327.391 Airboats regulated.—

17 (5) (a) Beginning July 1, 2019, a person may not operate an
18 airboat to carry one or more passengers for hire on waters of
19 the state unless he or she has all of the following onboard the
20 airboat:

21 1. A photographic identification card.

22 2. Proof of completion of a boater education course that
23 complies with s. 327.395(1) (a). Except as provided in paragraph
24 (b), no operator is exempt from this requirement, regardless of
25 age or the exemptions provided under s. 327.395.

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26 3. Proof of successful completion of a commission-approved
27 airboat operator course that meets the minimum standards
28 established by commission rule.

29 4. Proof of successful course completion in
30 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

31 (b) A person issued a captain's license by the United
32 States Coast Guard is not required to complete a boating safety
33 education course that complies with s. 327.395(1)(a). Proof of
34 the captain's license must be onboard the airboat when carrying
35 one or more passengers for hire on waters of the state.

36 (c) A person who violates this subsection commits a
37 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
38 775.082 or s. 775.083.

39 (d) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
40 subsection no later than October 1, 2018.

41 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.