

By Senator Garcia

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to boating safety; providing a short  
3       title; amending s. 327.30, F.S.; authorizing a court  
4       to impose a specified fine for certain boating  
5       collisions and accidents; requiring such fines to be  
6       deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust  
7       Fund for specified purposes; defining the terms  
8       "convicted" and "conviction"; amending s. 327.54,  
9       F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting liveries, beginning  
10      on a specified date, from offering a vessel for lease  
11      or rent without a livery permit; specifying  
12      requirements and qualifications for the permit;  
13      authorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
14      Commission to adopt rules; providing penalties for  
15      permit violations; revising the conditions under which  
16      a livery may not knowingly lease or rent a vessel;  
17      requiring specified boating safety education courses  
18      for certain instructors; requiring a person receiving  
19      safety instruction to provide the livery with a  
20      specified signed attestation; requiring liveries to  
21      report certain issues and accidents; requiring  
22      liveries to make facilities and records available to  
23      law enforcement upon notice; providing penalties for  
24      violations and additional penalties for subsequent  
25      violations; prohibiting violators from operating a  
26      vessel or acting as a livery for a specified timeframe  
27      after such a violation; authorizing the commission,  
28      beginning on a specified date, to revoke or refuse to  
29      issue permits for repeated violations; amending s.

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30 327.73, F.S.; increasing fines for violations of  
31 certain boating regulations; providing fines for  
32 improper transfers of title and failures to update  
33 vessel registration information; authorizing certain  
34 fees and penalties deposited into the Marine Resources  
35 Conservation Trust Fund to be used for law enforcement  
36 purposes; amending s. 327.731, F.S.; imposing a fine  
37 for persons convicted of certain criminal or  
38 noncriminal infractions; providing for the deposit of  
39 such fines into the Marine Resources Conservation  
40 Trust Fund; requiring the commission to maintain a  
41 program to ensure compliance with certain boating  
42 safety education requirements; specifying requirements  
43 for the program; amending s. 328.03, F.S.; providing  
44 that an improper transfer of vessel title is subject  
45 to a civil penalty; amending s. 328.48, F.S.;  
46 requiring that the address provided in a vessel  
47 registration application and a certificate of  
48 registration be a physical residential or business  
49 address; authorizing the commission to accept post  
50 office box addresses in lieu of the physical  
51 residential or business address under certain  
52 circumstances; providing that a person who fails to  
53 update his or her vessel registration information  
54 within a specified timeframe is subject to a civil  
55 penalty; providing an appropriation to, and  
56 authorizing positions for, the commission to create an  
57 Illegal Boating Strike Team; providing the duties of  
58 the strike team; providing additional appropriations

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59 to the commission and authorizing a position for a  
60 specified purpose; providing effective dates.

61

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

63

64 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Boating Safety Act  
65 of 2022."

66 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 327.30,  
67 Florida Statutes, to read:

68 327.30 Collisions, accidents, and casualties.—

69 (7) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a  
70 court may order a person convicted of a violation of this  
71 section or of any rule adopted or order issued by the commission  
72 pursuant to this section to pay an additional fine of up to  
73 \$1,000 per violation, which must be deposited into the Marine  
74 Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used to enhance state  
75 and local law enforcement activities related to boating  
76 infractions. As used in this subsection, the terms "convicted"  
77 and "conviction" mean any judicial disposition other than  
78 acquittal or dismissal.

79 Section 3. Section 327.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
80 read:

81 327.54 Liveries; safety regulations; penalty.—

82 (1) As used in this section, the term:

83 (a) "Conviction" means any judicial disposition other than  
84 acquittal or dismissal.

85 (b) "Livery" means a person who offers a vessel for use by  
86 another in exchange for any type of consideration when such  
87 person does not also provide the lessee or renter with a

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88 captain, a crew, or any type of staff or personnel to operate,  
89 oversee, maintain, or manage the vessel. A vessel rented or  
90 leased by a livery is a livery vessel as defined in s. 327.02.

91 (c) "Seaworthy" means the vessel and all of its parts and  
92 equipment, including, but not limited to, engines, bilge pumps,  
93 and kill switches, are functional and reasonably fit for their  
94 intended purpose.

95 (2) Beginning on January 1, 2023, a livery may not offer a  
96 vessel for lease or rent without first being issued a no-cost  
97 livery permit by the commission. The permit must be renewed  
98 annually. To qualify for issuance or renewal of a livery permit,  
99 an applicant must provide the commission with a list of all  
100 vessels offered by the livery for lease or rent by another, have  
101 valid insurance pursuant to paragraph (3)(j), have an amount of  
102 United States Coast Guard-approved lawful personal floatation  
103 devices on site sufficient to accommodate the capacity of all  
104 vessels offered by the livery for rent or lease by another, have  
105 on site all safety equipment required by s. 327.50 and the Code  
106 of Federal Regulations sufficient to equip all vessels offered  
107 by the livery for rent or lease by another, and display the  
108 information required by paragraph (3)(f). If, before the annual  
109 renewal of the permit, the information required by this  
110 subsection changes, the livery must provide the commission with  
111 the updated information within 10 days after the change.

112 (a) The commission may adopt rules to implement this  
113 subsection.

114 (b) A person who violates this subsection commits a  
115 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
116 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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117       (3) A livery may not knowingly lease, ~~hire,~~ or rent a  
118 vessel to any person:

119           (a) When the number of persons intending to use the vessel  
120 exceeds the number considered to constitute a maximum safety  
121 load for the vessel as specified on the authorized persons  
122 capacity plate of the vessel.

123           (b) When the horsepower of the motor exceeds the capacity  
124 of the vessel.

125           (c) When the vessel does not contain the ~~required~~ safety  
126 equipment required under s. 327.50.

127           (d) When the vessel is not seaworthy, is a derelict vessel  
128 as defined in s. 823.11, or is at risk of becoming derelict as  
129 provided in s. 327.4107.

130           ~~(e) When the vessel is equipped with a motor of 10~~  
131 ~~horsepower or greater,~~ Unless the livery provides pre-rental  
132 ~~prerental~~ or pre-ride ~~preride~~ instruction in compliance with  
133 rules established by the commission. The instruction must  
134 include ~~that includes,~~ but need not be limited to:

135               1. Operational characteristics of the vessel to be rented.

136               2. Safe vessel operation and vessel right-of-way.

137               3. The responsibility of the vessel operator for the safe  
138 and proper operation of the vessel.

139               4. Local characteristics of the waterway where the vessel  
140 will be operated, such as navigational hazards, the presence of  
141 boating-restricted areas, and water depths.

142               5. Emergency procedures such as appropriate responses to  
143 capsizing, falls overboard, taking on water, and vessel  
144 accidents.

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146 ~~Any person delivering the information specified in this~~  
147 ~~paragraph must have successfully completed a boater safety~~  
148 ~~course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law~~  
149 ~~Administrators and this state.~~

150 (f) Unless the livery displays boating safety information  
151 in a place visible to the renting public. The commission shall  
152 prescribe by rule, pursuant to chapter 120, the contents and  
153 size of the boating safety information to be displayed.

154 (g) Unless the livery has a written agreement with the  
155 renter or lessee. The written agreement must include a list of  
156 the names, addresses, and dates of birth for all persons who  
157 will be aboard the vessel, as well as the time the vessel is  
158 required to be returned to the livery or another specified  
159 location and an emergency contact name, address, and telephone  
160 number. The livery shall maintain each agreement for no less  
161 than 1 year and, upon request, make each agreement available for  
162 inspection by law enforcement.

163 (h) Who is required to comply with s. 327.395, unless such  
164 person presents to the livery the documentation required by s.  
165 327.395(2) for the operation of a vessel or meets the exemption  
166 provided under s. 327.395(6) (f).

167 (i) Who is under 18 years of age.

168 (j) Unless the livery first obtains and carries in full  
169 force and effect a policy from a licensed insurance carrier in  
170 this state which insures the livery against any accident, loss,  
171 injury, property damage, or other casualty caused by or  
172 resulting from the operation of the vessel. The insurance policy  
173 must provide coverage of at least \$500,000 per person and \$1  
174 million per event. The livery shall have proof of such insurance

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175 available for inspection at the location where the livery's  
176 vessels are being leased or rented, or offered for lease or  
177 rent, and shall provide to each renter the insurance carrier's  
178 name and address and the insurance policy number.

179 (4) Notwithstanding the person's age or any exemptions  
180 provided in s. 327.395, any person delivering instruction  
181 regarding the safe operation of vessels or pre-rental or pre-  
182 ride instruction in accordance with subsection (3) must have  
183 successfully completed a boating safety education course  
184 approved by the National Association of State Boating Law  
185 Administrators and this state.

186 (5) A person who receives instruction regarding the safe  
187 operation of vessels or pre-rental or pre-ride instruction in  
188 accordance with subsection (3) must provide the livery with a  
189 signed form attesting to each component of the instruction.

190 (a) The commission shall establish by rule the content of  
191 the form.

192 (b) The form must be signed by the individual providing the  
193 instruction.

194 (c) The livery shall maintain the form for no less than 90  
195 days and, upon request, make the form available for inspection  
196 by law enforcement.

197 ~~(2) A livery may not knowingly lease, hire, or rent a~~  
198 ~~vessel to a person who is required to comply with s. 327.395~~  
199 ~~unless such person presents to the livery the documentation~~  
200 ~~required by s. 327.395(2) for the operation of a vessel or meets~~  
201 ~~the exemption provided under s. 327.395(6)(f).~~

202 (6)(3) If a vessel rented or leased by a livery is  
203 unnecessarily overdue more than 1 hour after the contracted

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204 vessel rental time has expired, the livery must ~~shall~~ notify law  
205 enforcement and the United States Coast Guard ~~the proper~~  
206 authorities.

207 (7) If a vessel rented or leased by a livery is involved in  
208 an accident, the livery must, as applicable under s. 327.301,  
209 report the accident.

210 (8) A livery shall make its facilities and records  
211 available for inspection upon request by law enforcement no  
212 later than 24 hours after receiving notice from law enforcement.

213 (9) (a) A person who violates this section other than  
214 subsection (2), but who has not been convicted of a violation of  
215 this section within the past 3 years, commits a misdemeanor of  
216 the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
217 775.083.

218 (b) Unless the stricter penalties in paragraph (c) apply, a  
219 person who violates this section other than subsection (2)  
220 within 3 years after a previous conviction of a violation of  
221 this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,  
222 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, with a  
223 minimum mandatory fine of \$500.

224 (c) A person who violates this section other than  
225 subsection (2) within 5 years after two previous convictions for  
226 a violation of this section commits a misdemeanor of the first  
227 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, with  
228 a minimum mandatory fine of \$1,000.

229 (10) A person who commits more than one violation of this  
230 section, other than subsection (2), within a 3-year period may  
231 not act as a livery during a 90-day period immediately after  
232 being charged with that violation. Beginning January 1, 2023,



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233 the commission may revoke or refuse to issue a permit under  
234 subsection (2) based on repeated violations of this section.

235 ~~(4) (a) A livery may not knowingly lease, hire, or rent a~~  
236 ~~personal watercraft to any person who is under 18 years of age.~~

237 ~~(b) A livery may not knowingly lease, hire, or rent a~~  
238 ~~personal watercraft to any person who has not received~~  
239 ~~instruction in the safe handling of personal watercraft, in~~  
240 ~~compliance with rules established by the commission pursuant to~~  
241 ~~chapter 120.~~

242 ~~(c) Any person receiving instruction in the safe handling~~  
243 ~~of personal watercraft pursuant to a program established by rule~~  
244 ~~of the commission must provide the livery with a written~~  
245 ~~statement attesting to the same.~~

246 ~~(5) A livery may not lease, hire, or rent any personal~~  
247 ~~watercraft or offer to lease, hire, or rent any personal~~  
248 ~~watercraft unless the livery first obtains and carries in full~~  
249 ~~force and effect a policy from a licensed insurance carrier in~~  
250 ~~this state, insuring against any accident, loss, injury,~~  
251 ~~property damage, or other casualty caused by or resulting from~~  
252 ~~the operation of the personal watercraft. The insurance policy~~  
253 ~~shall provide coverage of at least \$500,000 per person and \$1~~  
254 ~~million per event. The livery must have proof of such insurance~~  
255 ~~available for inspection at the location where personal~~  
256 ~~watercraft are being leased, hired, or rented, or offered for~~  
257 ~~lease, hire, or rent, and shall provide to each renter the~~  
258 ~~insurance carrier's name and address and the insurance policy~~  
259 ~~number.~~

260 ~~(6) Any person convicted of violating this section commits~~  
261 ~~a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.~~

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262 ~~775.082 or s. 775.083.~~

263 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (8) of section 327.73,  
264 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

265 327.73 Noncriminal infractions.—

266 (1) Violations of the following provisions of the vessel  
267 laws of this state are noncriminal infractions:

268 (a) Section 328.46, relating to operation of unregistered  
269 and unnumbered vessels.

270 (b) Section 328.48(4), relating to display of number and  
271 possession of registration certificate.

272 (c) Section 328.48(5), relating to display of decal.

273 (d) Section 328.52(2), relating to display of number.

274 (e) Section 328.54, relating to spacing of digits and  
275 letters of identification number.

276 (f) Section 328.60, relating to military personnel and  
277 registration of vessels.

278 (g) Section 328.72(13), relating to operation with an  
279 expired registration, for which the penalty is:

280 1. For a first or subsequent offense of s. 328.72(13) (a),  
281 up to a maximum of \$100 ~~\$50~~.

282 2. For a first offense of s. 328.72(13) (b), up to a maximum  
283 of \$250.

284 3. For a second or subsequent offense of s. 328.72(13) (b),  
285 up to a maximum of \$500. Any person cited for a noncriminal  
286 infraction under this subparagraph may not have the provisions  
287 of paragraph (4) (a) available to him or her but must appear  
288 before the designated official at the time and location of the  
289 scheduled hearing.

290 (h) Section 327.33(2), relating to careless operation.

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291 (i) Section 327.37, relating to water skiing, aquaplaning,  
 292 parasailing, and similar activities.

293 (j) Section 327.44, relating to interference with  
 294 navigation.

295 (k) Violations relating to boating-restricted areas and  
 296 speed limits:

297 1. Established by the commission or by local governmental  
 298 authorities pursuant to s. 327.46.

299 2. Speed limits established pursuant to s. 379.2431(2).

300 (l) Section 327.48, relating to regattas and races.

301 (m) Section 327.50(1) and (2), relating to required safety  
 302 equipment, lights, and shapes.

303 (n) Section 327.65, relating to muffling devices.

304 (o) Section 327.33(3)(b), relating to a violation of  
 305 navigation rules:

306 1. That does not result in an accident; or

307 2. That results in an accident not causing serious bodily  
 308 injury or death, for which the penalty is:

309 a. For a first offense, up to a maximum of \$500 ~~\$250~~.

310 b. For a second offense, up to a maximum of \$1,000 ~~\$750~~.

311 c. For a third or subsequent offense, up to a maximum of  
 312 \$1,500 ~~\$1,000~~.

313 (p) Section 327.39(1), (2), (3), and (5), relating to  
 314 personal watercraft.

315 (q) Section 327.53(1), (2), (3), and (8), relating to  
 316 marine sanitation.

317 (r) Section 327.53(4), (5), and (7), relating to marine  
 318 sanitation, and s. 327.60, relating to no-discharge zones, for  
 319 which the civil penalty is \$250.

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320 (s) Section 327.395, relating to boater safety education.  
321 However, a person cited for violating the requirements of s.  
322 327.395 relating to failure to have required proof of boating  
323 safety education in his or her possession may not be convicted  
324 if, before or at the time of a county court hearing, the person  
325 produces proof of the boating safety education identification  
326 card or temporary certificate for verification by the hearing  
327 officer or the court clerk and the identification card or  
328 temporary certificate was valid at the time the person was  
329 cited.

330 (t) Section 327.52(3), relating to operation of overloaded  
331 or overpowered vessels.

332 (u) Section 327.331, relating to divers-down warning  
333 devices, except for violations meeting the requirements of  
334 s. 327.33.

335 (v) Section 327.391(1), relating to the requirement for an  
336 adequate muffler on an airboat.

337 (w) Section 327.391(3), relating to the display of a flag  
338 on an airboat.

339 (x) Section 253.04(3)(a), relating to carelessly causing  
340 seagrass scarring, for which the civil penalty upon conviction  
341 is:

342 1. For a first offense, \$100 ~~\$50~~.

343 2. For a second offense occurring within 12 months after a  
344 prior conviction, \$250.

345 3. For a third offense occurring within 36 months after a  
346 prior conviction, \$500.

347 4. For a fourth or subsequent offense occurring within 72  
348 months after a prior conviction, \$1,000.

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349 (y) Section 327.45, relating to protection zones for  
 350 springs, for which the penalty is:

- 351 1. For a first offense, \$100 ~~\$50~~.
- 352 2. For a second offense occurring within 12 months after a  
 353 prior conviction, \$250.
- 354 3. For a third offense occurring within 36 months after a  
 355 prior conviction, \$500.
- 356 4. For a fourth or subsequent offense occurring within 72  
 357 months after a prior conviction, \$1,000.

358 (z) Section 327.4108, relating to the anchoring of vessels  
 359 in anchoring limitation areas, for which the penalty is:

- 360 1. For a first offense, up to a maximum of \$100 ~~\$50~~.
- 361 2. For a second offense, up to a maximum of \$250 ~~\$100~~.
- 362 3. For a third or subsequent offense, up to a maximum of  
 363 \$500 ~~\$250~~.

364 (aa) Section 327.4107, relating to vessels at risk of  
 365 becoming derelict on waters of this state, for which the civil  
 366 penalty is:

- 367 1. For a first offense, \$100.
- 368 2. For a second offense occurring 30 days or more after a  
 369 first offense, \$250.
- 370 3. For a third or subsequent offense occurring 30 days or  
 371 more after a previous offense, \$500.

372  
 373 A vessel that is the subject of three or more violations issued  
 374 pursuant to the same paragraph of s. 327.4107(2) within an 18-  
 375 month period which result in dispositions other than acquittal  
 376 or dismissal shall be declared to be a public nuisance and  
 377 subject to ss. 705.103(2) and (4) and 823.11(3). The commission,

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378 an officer of the commission, or a law enforcement agency or  
379 officer specified in s. 327.70 may relocate, remove, or cause to  
380 be relocated or removed such public nuisance vessels from waters  
381 of this state. The commission, an officer of the commission, or  
382 a law enforcement agency or officer acting pursuant to this  
383 paragraph upon waters of this state shall be held harmless for  
384 all damages to the vessel resulting from such relocation or  
385 removal unless the damage results from gross negligence or  
386 willful misconduct as these terms are defined in s. 823.11.

387 (bb) Section 327.4109, relating to anchoring or mooring in  
388 a prohibited area, for which the penalty is:

- 389 1. For a first offense, up to a maximum of \$100 ~~\$50~~.
- 390 2. For a second offense, up to a maximum of \$250 ~~\$100~~.
- 391 3. For a third or subsequent offense, up to a maximum of  
392 \$500 ~~\$250~~.

393 (cc) Section 327.463(4) (a) and (b), relating to vessels  
394 creating special hazards, for which the penalty is:

- 395 1. For a first offense, \$100 ~~\$50~~.
- 396 2. For a second offense occurring within 12 months after a  
397 prior offense, \$250 ~~\$100~~.
- 398 3. For a third offense occurring within 36 months after a  
399 prior offense, \$500 ~~\$250~~.

400 (dd) Section 327.371, relating to the regulation of human-  
401 powered vessels.

402 (ee) Section 328.03, relating to an improper transfer of  
403 title, for which the penalty is up to a maximum of \$500.

404 (ff) Section 328.48(9), relating to the failure to update  
405 vessel registration information, for which the penalty is up to  
406 a maximum of \$500.

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407  
408 Any person cited for a violation of ~~any provision of~~ this  
409 subsection shall be deemed to be charged with a noncriminal  
410 infraction, shall be cited for such an infraction, and shall be  
411 cited to appear before the county court. The civil penalty for  
412 any such infraction is \$100 ~~\$50~~, except as otherwise provided in  
413 this section. Any person who fails to appear or otherwise  
414 properly respond to a uniform boating citation ~~shall~~, in  
415 addition to the charge relating to the violation of the boating  
416 laws of this state, must be charged with the offense of failing  
417 to respond to such citation and, upon conviction, be guilty of a  
418 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
419 775.082 or s. 775.083. A written warning to this effect shall be  
420 provided at the time such uniform boating citation is issued.

421 (8) All fees and civil penalties assessed and collected  
422 pursuant to this section shall be remitted by the clerk of the  
423 court to the Department of Revenue to be deposited into the  
424 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for boating safety  
425 education or law enforcement purposes.

426 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 327.731, Florida  
427 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that  
428 section, to read:

429 327.731 Mandatory education for violators.—

430 (1) A person convicted of a criminal violation under this  
431 chapter, convicted of a noncriminal infraction under this  
432 chapter if the infraction resulted in a reportable boating  
433 accident, or convicted of two noncriminal infractions as  
434 specified in s. 327.73(1)(h)-(k), (m), (o), (p), and (s)-(y),  
435 the said infractions occurring within a 12-month period, must:

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436 (a) Enroll in, attend, and successfully complete, at his or  
437 her own expense, a classroom or online boating safety course  
438 that is approved by and meets the minimum standards established  
439 by commission rule;

440 (b) File with the commission within 90 days proof of  
441 successful completion of the course; ~~and~~

442 (c) Refrain from operating a vessel until he or she has  
443 filed proof of successful completion of the course with the  
444 commission; and

445 (d) Pay a fine of \$500. The clerk of the court shall remit  
446 all fines assessed and collected under this paragraph to the  
447 Department of Revenue to be deposited into the Marine Resources  
448 Conservation Trust Fund to support law enforcement activities.

449 (4) The commission shall maintain a program to ensure  
450 compliance with the mandatory boating safety education  
451 requirements under this section. This program must:

452 (a) Track any citations resulting in a conviction under  
453 this section and the disposition of such citations.

454 (b) Send specific notices to each person subject to the  
455 requirement for mandatory boating safety education.

456 Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 328.03, Florida  
457 Statutes, is amended to read:

458 328.03 Certificate of title required.-

459 (3) A person may ~~shall~~ not sell, assign, or transfer a  
460 vessel titled by the state without delivering to the purchaser  
461 or transferee a valid certificate of title with an assignment on  
462 it showing the transfer of title to the purchaser or transferee.  
463 A person may ~~shall~~ not purchase or otherwise acquire a vessel  
464 required to be titled by the state without obtaining a



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465 certificate of title for the vessel in his or her name. The  
466 purchaser or transferee shall, within 30 days after a change in  
467 vessel ownership, file an application for a title transfer with  
468 the county tax collector. An additional \$10 fee must ~~shall~~ be  
469 charged against the purchaser or transferee if he or she files a  
470 title transfer application after the 30-day period. The county  
471 tax collector may ~~shall be entitled to~~ retain \$5 of the  
472 additional amount. Any person who does not properly transfer  
473 title of a vessel pursuant to this chapter is subject to the  
474 penalties provided in s. 327.73(1)(ee).

475 Section 7. Effective July 1, 2023, subsection (4) of  
476 section 328.03, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2019-76,  
477 Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

478 328.03 Certificate of title required.-

479 (4) An additional \$10 fee shall be charged against the  
480 purchaser or transferee if he or she files a title transfer  
481 application after the 30-day period. The county tax collector  
482 may ~~shall be entitled to~~ retain \$5 of the additional amount. Any  
483 person who does not properly transfer title of a vessel pursuant  
484 to this chapter is subject to the penalties provided in s.  
485 327.73(1)(ee).

486 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection  
487 (4) of section 328.48, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
488 subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

489 328.48 Vessel registration, application, certificate,  
490 number, decal, duplicate certificate.-

491 (1) (a) The owner of each vessel required by this law to pay  
492 a registration fee and secure an identification number shall  
493 file an application with the county tax collector. The

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494 application must ~~shall~~ provide the owner's name and physical  
495 residential or business address; residency status; personal or  
496 business identification; and a complete description of the  
497 vessel, and must ~~shall~~ be accompanied by payment of the  
498 applicable fee required in s. 328.72. An individual applicant  
499 must provide a valid driver license or identification card  
500 issued by this state or another state or a valid passport. A  
501 business applicant must provide a federal employer  
502 identification number, if applicable, verification that the  
503 business is authorized to conduct business in this ~~the~~ state, or  
504 a Florida city or county business license or number.  
505 Registration is not required for any vessel that is not used on  
506 the waters of this state. Upon receipt of an application from a  
507 live-aboard vessel owner, the commission may authorize such  
508 owner to provide a post office box address in lieu of a physical  
509 residential or business address so long as he or she has not  
510 been convicted of a criminal offense under this chapter or  
511 chapter 327.

512 (4) Each certificate of registration issued must ~~shall~~  
513 state among other items the numbers awarded to the vessel, the  
514 hull identification number, the name and physical residential or  
515 business address of the owner, and a description of the vessel,  
516 except that certificates of registration for vessels constructed  
517 or assembled by the owner registered for the first time must  
518 ~~shall~~ state all the foregoing information except the hull  
519 identification number. The numbers must ~~shall~~ be placed on each  
520 side of the forward half of the vessel in such position as to  
521 provide clear legibility for identification, except, if the  
522 vessel is an airboat, the numbers may be placed on each side of

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523 the rudder. The numbers awarded to the vessel must ~~shall~~ read  
524 from left to right and must ~~shall~~ be in block characters of good  
525 proportion not less than 3 inches in height. The numbers must  
526 ~~shall~~ be of a solid color that ~~which~~ will contrast with the  
527 color of the background and must ~~shall~~ be so maintained as to be  
528 clearly visible and legible; i.e., dark numbers on a light  
529 background or light numbers on a dark background. The  
530 certificate of registration must ~~shall~~ be pocket-sized and must  
531 ~~shall~~ be available for inspection on the vessel for which issued  
532 whenever such vessel is in operation. Upon receipt of an  
533 application from a live-aboard vessel owner, the commission may  
534 authorize such owner to provide a post office box address in  
535 lieu of a physical residential address so long as he or she has  
536 not been convicted of a criminal offense under this chapter or  
537 chapter 327.

538 (9) A person who does not update his or her vessel  
539 registration information with the county tax collector within 6  
540 months after a change to the information is subject to the  
541 penalties provided in s. 327.73(1)(ff).

542 Section 9. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of \$2  
543 million in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
544 Revenue Fund to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
545 and 7 full-time equivalent positions with associated salary rate  
546 of 322,763 are authorized to create an Illegal Boating Strike  
547 Team for the purpose of coordinating law enforcement at the  
548 federal, state, and local levels to increase public safety and  
549 decrease boating accidents, injuries, fatalities, and criminal  
550 activity. In areas where illegal charters and illegal liveries  
551 are found to be operating, the strike team shall do all of the

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552 following:

553 (1) Enhance law enforcement activities by increasing  
554 intergovernmental coordination to address any criminal conduct  
555 or safety violations, taxes and fees, and licensure regulations  
556 by such charter and livery operations.

557 (2) Address unsafe customer pick-ups and drop-offs.

558 (3) Improve signage and set appropriate speed limits in  
559 waterways.

560 (4) Ensure that correct and current information is used for  
561 vessel registration.

562 (5) Publicize existing reporting systems and use social  
563 media to encourage citizens to report illegal activities.

564 (6) Develop educational campaigns to address and deter  
565 illegal charter operations, illegal livery operations, boating  
566 under the influence, and related public safety issues and to  
567 encourage the reporting of boating violations.

568 Section 10. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of  
569 \$100,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is  
570 appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
571 and one full-time equivalent position with associated salary  
572 rate of 60,000 is authorized to implement the amendment made to  
573 s. 327.731, Florida Statutes, by this act relating to ensuring  
574 compliance with mandatory boating safety education requirements.

575 Section 11. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of  
576 \$125,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is  
577 appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
578 for the purpose of implementing the livery permitting  
579 requirement in s. 327.54(2), Florida Statutes.

580 Section 12. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this

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581 | act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2022.