

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to boating and vessel safety;  
 3           providing a short title; amending s. 327.395, F.S.;  
 4           requiring certain boating safety education courses and  
 5           temporary certificate examinations to include  
 6           specified components; directing the Fish and Wildlife  
 7           Conservation Commission to include such components in  
 8           boating safety education campaigns and certain  
 9           educational materials; amending s. 327.50, F.S.;  
 10          requiring operators of vessels used in the instruction  
 11          of water sports and activities to use engine cutoff  
 12          switches and wear operative links to the switches  
 13          under certain conditions; providing an effective date.

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

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 17           Section 1. This act may be cited as "Ethan's Law."

18           Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 327.395, Florida  
 19   Statutes, is amended to read:

20           327.395 Boating safety education.—

21           (4) A commission-approved boating safety education course  
 22   or temporary certificate examination developed or approved by  
 23   the commission must include components ~~a component~~ regarding:

24           (a) Diving vessels, awareness of divers in the water,  
 25   divers-down warning devices, and the requirements of s. 327.331.

- 26        (b) The danger associated with:  
 27        1. A passenger riding on a seat back, gunwale, transom,  
 28 bow, motor cover, or any other vessel area not designed and  
 29 designated by the manufacturer for seating.  
 30        2. A passenger falling overboard.  
 31        3. Operating a vessel with a person in the water near the  
 32 vessel.  
 33        4. Starting a vessel with the engine in gear.  
 34        5. Leaving the vessel running when a passenger is boarding  
 35 or disembarking.

36        (c) The proper use and lifesaving benefits of an engine  
 37 cutoff switch for motorboats and personal watercraft.

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 39 The commission must include the components under this subsection  
 40 in boating safety education campaigns and in educational  
 41 materials produced by the commission, as appropriate.

42        Section 3. Subsection (4) is added to section 327.50,  
 43 Florida Statutes, to read:

44        327.50 Vessel safety regulations; equipment and lighting  
 45 requirements.—

46        (4) The operator of a vessel used in the instruction of a  
 47 water sport or activity must use an engine cutoff switch and  
 48 wear an operative link to the switch when a person participating  
 49 in the water sport or activity is in the water.

50        Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2022.