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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Garcia) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Effective October 1, 2025, paragraph (d) of  
subsection (8) of section 322.051, Florida Statutes, is amended,  
and paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, to read:

322.051 Identification cards.—

(8)

(d) The department shall include symbols representing the



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11 following on an identification card upon the payment of an  
12 additional \$1 fee by an applicant who meets the requirements of  
13 subsection (1) and presents his or her:

- 14 1. Lifetime freshwater fishing license;
- 15 2. Lifetime saltwater fishing license;
- 16 3. Lifetime hunting license; or
- 17 4. Lifetime sportsman's license; ~~or~~
- 18 5. ~~Lifetime boater safety identification card.~~

19  
20 A person may replace his or her identification card before its  
21 expiration date with a card that includes his or her status as a  
22 lifetime licensee ~~or boater safety cardholder~~ upon surrender of  
23 his or her current identification card, payment of a \$2 fee to  
24 be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, and  
25 presentation of the person's lifetime license ~~or card~~. If the  
26 sole purpose of the replacement identification card is the  
27 inclusion of the applicant's status as a lifetime licensee ~~or~~  
28 ~~cardholder~~, the replacement identification card must be issued  
29 without payment of the fee required in s. 322.21(1)(f)3.c.

30 (f) The department shall issue an original, renewal, or  
31 replacement identification card, as applicable, which includes a  
32 symbol representing a lifetime boating safety identification  
33 card upon the applicant's presentation of his or her Florida  
34 boating safety identification card or a receipt of confirmation  
35 by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that the  
36 applicant was issued a Florida boating safety identification  
37 card. The department shall include the lifetime boating safety  
38 identification card symbol on an original, renewal, or  
39 replacement identification card with no additional fee to the



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40 applicant for the designation. If the sole purpose of the  
41 replacement identification card is the inclusion of the  
42 applicant's status as a lifetime boating safety cardholder, the  
43 replacement identification card must be issued without payment  
44 of any fee required by s. 322.21(1)(f).

45 Section 2. Effective October 1, 2025, present subsections  
46 (5) through (10) of section 322.08, Florida Statutes, are  
47 redesignated as subsections (6) through (11), respectively, and  
48 a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

49 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license  
50 and identification card forms.—

51 (5) Each such application must indicate whether the  
52 applicant has obtained a Florida boating safety identification  
53 card pursuant to s. 327.395, and, if so, a copy of such card  
54 must be submitted with the application. For purposes of  
55 administering this subsection, the Fish and Wildlife  
56 Conservation Commission may provide to the department any record  
57 it has of the applicant completing a boating safety education  
58 course that meets the requirements of s. 327.395 or having been  
59 issued a Florida boating safety identification card.

60 Section 3. Effective October 1, 2025, paragraph (e) of  
61 subsection (1) of section 322.14, Florida Statutes, is amended,  
62 and paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, to read:

63 322.14 Licenses issued to drivers.—

64 (1)

65 (e) The department shall include symbols representing the  
66 following on a driver license upon the payment of an additional  
67 \$1 fee by an applicant who meets the requirements of s. 322.08  
68 and presents his or her:



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- 69 1. Lifetime freshwater fishing license;
- 70 2. Lifetime saltwater fishing license;
- 71 3. Lifetime hunting license; or
- 72 4. Lifetime sportsman's license; ~~or~~
- 73 5. ~~Lifetime boater safety identification card.~~

74  
75 A person may replace his or her driver license before its  
76 expiration date with a license that includes his or her status  
77 as a lifetime licensee ~~or boater safety cardholder~~ upon  
78 surrender of his or her current driver license, payment of a \$2  
79 fee to be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust  
80 Fund, and presentation of the person's lifetime license ~~or~~  
81 ~~identification card~~. If the sole purpose of the replacement  
82 driver license is the inclusion of the applicant's status as a  
83 lifetime licensee ~~or cardholder~~, the replacement driver license  
84 must be issued without payment of the fee required in s.  
85 322.21(1)(e).

86 (g) The department shall issue an original, renewal, or  
87 replacement driver license, as applicable, which includes a  
88 symbol representing a lifetime boating safety identification  
89 card, upon the applicant's presentation of his or her Florida  
90 boating safety identification card or a receipt of confirmation  
91 by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that the  
92 applicant has been issued a Florida boating safety  
93 identification card. The department shall include the lifetime  
94 boating safety identification card symbol on an original,  
95 renewal, or replacement driver license with no additional fee to  
96 the applicant for the designation. If the sole purpose of the  
97 replacement driver license is the inclusion of the applicant's



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98 status as a lifetime boating safety cardholder, the replacement  
99 driver license must be issued without payment of any fee  
100 required by s. 322.21(1)(e).

101 Section 4. Present subsection (10) of section 327.35,  
102 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (11), and a new  
103 subsection (10) is added to that section, to read:

104 327.35 Boating under the influence; penalties; "designated  
105 drivers."—

106 (10) Notwithstanding any sentence or fine imposed by law or  
107 the court, a person convicted of a violation of subsection (1)  
108 and one or more criminal violations under this chapter, whether  
109 arising from the same incident or within the preceding 12  
110 months, must maintain an insurance policy insuring against loss  
111 from liability for bodily injury, death, and property damage  
112 arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a vessel.  
113 Such insurance must contain limits not less than \$100,000 for  
114 bodily injury liability or death and \$50,000 for property  
115 damage. A person who operates a vessel without the requisite  
116 insurance commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable  
117 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

118 Section 5. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section  
119 327.395, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

120 327.395 Boating safety education.—

121 (1) Effective July 1, 2026, a person operating ~~born on or~~  
122 ~~after January 1, 1988, may not operate~~ a vessel powered by a  
123 motor of 10 horsepower or greater must have ~~unless such person~~  
124 ~~has~~ in his or her possession aboard the vessel the documents  
125 required by subsection (2).

126 (2) While operating a vessel, a person ~~identified under~~



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127 ~~subsection (1)~~ must have in his or her possession aboard the  
128 vessel photographic identification and a Florida boating safety  
129 identification card issued by the commission; a state-issued  
130 identification card or driver license indicating possession of  
131 the Florida boating safety identification card; or photographic  
132 identification and a temporary certificate issued or approved by  
133 the commission, an International Certificate of Competency, a  
134 boating safety card or certificate from another state or United  
135 States territory, or a Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator Card,  
136 which shows that he or she has done one of the following:

137 (a) Completed a commission-approved boating safety  
138 education course that meets the minimum requirements established  
139 by the National Association of State Boating Law  
140 Administrators. ~~†~~

141 (b) Passed a temporary certificate examination developed or  
142 approved by the commission. ~~†~~

143 (c) Obtained a valid International Certificate of  
144 Competency. ~~†~~ ~~or~~

145 (d) Completed a boating safety education course or  
146 equivalency examination in another state, a United States  
147 territory, or Canada which meets or exceeds the minimum  
148 requirements established by the National Association of State  
149 Boating Law Administrators.

150 (4) A commission-approved boating safety education course  
151 or temporary certificate examination developed or approved by  
152 the commission must include components regarding all of the  
153 following:

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



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156 (b) The danger associated with:  
157 1. A passenger riding on a seat back, gunwale, transom,  
158 bow, motor cover, or any other vessel area not designed and  
159 designated by the manufacturer for seating.  
160 2. A passenger falling overboard.  
161 3. Operating a vessel with a person in the water near the  
162 vessel.  
163 4. Starting a vessel with the engine in gear.  
164 5. Leaving the vessel running when a passenger is boarding  
165 or disembarking.  
166 6. Boating under the influence in violation of s. 327.35.  
167 (c) The proper use and lifesaving benefits of an engine  
168 cutoff switch for motorboats and personal watercraft.  
169 (d) Human trafficking awareness.  
170  
171 The commission must include the components under this subsection  
172 in boating safety education campaigns and in educational  
173 materials produced by the commission, as appropriate.  
174 Section 6. Section 327.731, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
175 read:  
176 327.731 Mandatory education for violators.—  
177 (1) A person convicted of a criminal violation under this  
178 chapter, convicted of a noncriminal infraction under this  
179 chapter if the infraction resulted in a reportable boating  
180 accident, or convicted of a two noncriminal infraction  
181 ~~infractions~~ as specified in s. 327.73(1)(h)-(k), (m), (o), (p),  
182 or and (s)-(y), the infractions occurring within a 12-month  
183 ~~period,~~ must do all of the following:  
184 (a) Enroll in, attend, and successfully complete, at his or



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185 her own expense, one of the following courses, as applicable:  
186 1. For a person convicted of any two noncriminal  
187 infractions within a 24-month period, the boating safety  
188 education course provided for in s. 327.395.  
189 2. For a person convicted of a criminal violation, of a  
190 noncriminal infraction under this chapter if the infraction  
191 resulted in a reportable boating accident, or of three or more  
192 noncriminal infractions within a 36-month period, the boating  
193 safety education course provided for in s. 327.395 and a 4-hour  
194 course that includes information regarding all of the following:  
195 a. The boating laws of this state.  
196 b. Causes and prevention of boating accidents.  
197 c. The importance of wearing personal flotation devices.  
198 d. The use of common sense and common courtesy while  
199 operating a vessel.  
200 e. Operating a vessel defensively. ~~a classroom or online~~  
201 ~~boating safety course that is approved by and meets the minimum~~  
202 ~~standards established by commission rule;~~  
203 (b) File with the commission within 90 days proof of  
204 successful completion of the course.~~;~~  
205 (c) Refrain from operating a vessel until he or she has  
206 filed proof of successful completion of the course with the  
207 commission.~~;~~~~and~~  
208 (d) Pay a fine of \$500. The clerk of the court shall remit  
209 all fines assessed and collected under this paragraph to the  
210 Department of Revenue to be deposited into the Marine Resources  
211 Conservation Trust Fund to support law enforcement activities.  
212 (2) For the purposes of this section, the terms "convicted"  
213 and "conviction" mean ~~means~~ a finding of guilt, or the





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214 acceptance of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of  
215 whether ~~or not~~ adjudication was withheld or whether imposition  
216 of sentence was withheld, deferred, or suspended. A ~~Any~~ person  
217 who operates a vessel on the waters of this state in violation  
218 of ~~the provisions of~~ this section commits ~~is guilty of~~ a  
219 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
220 775.082 or s. 775.083.

221 (3) The commission shall print on the reverse side of the  
222 defendant's copy of the boating citation a notice of the  
223 provisions of this section. Upon conviction, the clerk of the  
224 court shall notify the defendant that it is unlawful for him or  
225 her to operate any vessel until he or she has complied with this  
226 section, but failure of the clerk of the court to provide such a  
227 notice is ~~shall~~ not be a defense to a charge of unlawful  
228 operation of a vessel under subsection (2).

229 (4) The commission shall:

230 (a) Maintain a program to ensure compliance with the  
231 mandatory boating safety education requirements under this  
232 section. This program must:

233 1. ~~(a)~~ Track any citations resulting in a conviction under  
234 this section and the disposition of such citations; and-

235 2. ~~(b)~~ Send specific notices to each person subject to the  
236 requirement for mandatory boating safety education.

237 (b) Adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

238 Section 7. Effective October 1, 2025, paragraph (c) of  
239 subsection (2) of section 119.0712, Florida Statutes, is amended  
240 to read:

241 119.0712 Executive branch agency-specific exemptions from  
242 inspection or copying of public records.-



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243 (2) DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES.—

244 (c) E-mail addresses collected by the Department of Highway  
245 Safety and Motor Vehicles pursuant to s. 319.40(3), s.  
246 320.95(2), or s. 322.08(11) ~~s. 322.08(10)~~ are exempt from s.  
247 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This  
248 exemption applies retroactively.

249 Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
250 made by this act to section 327.395, Florida Statutes, in  
251 references thereto, subsection (4) of section 327.54, Florida  
252 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

253 327.54 Liveries; safety regulations; penalty.—

254 (4) A livery may not knowingly lease or rent a vessel to a  
255 person who is required to comply with s. 327.395 unless such  
256 person presents to the livery the documentation required by s.  
257 327.395(2) for the operation of a vessel or meets the exemption  
258 provided under s. 327.395(6)(f).

259 Section 9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
260 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

261  
262 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

263 And the title is amended as follows:

264 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
265 and insert:

266 A bill to be entitled  
267 An act relating to boating safety; amending s.  
268 322.051, F.S.; requiring the Department of Highway  
269 Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue original, renewal,  
270 or replacement identification cards with a lifetime  
271 boating safety identification card symbol to



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272 applicants if certain conditions are met; requiring  
273 the department to include the symbol on such cards  
274 with no additional fee for the designation; requiring  
275 the department to issue replacement identification  
276 cards that meet certain requirements without charging  
277 a specified fee; amending s. 322.08, F.S.; requiring  
278 that applications for original, renewal, or  
279 replacement driver licenses or identification cards  
280 indicate whether the applicant has obtained a boating  
281 safety identification card and, if so, that a copy of  
282 such card be submitted with the application;  
283 authorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
284 Commission to provide the department with certain  
285 information relating to the applicant; amending s.  
286 322.14, F.S.; requiring the department to issue  
287 original, renewal, or replacement driver licenses with  
288 a lifetime boating safety identification card symbol  
289 to applicants if certain conditions are met; requiring  
290 the department to include the symbol on such licenses  
291 with no additional fee for the designation; requiring  
292 the department to issue replacement driver licenses  
293 that meet certain requirements without charging a  
294 specified fee; amending s. 327.35, F.S.; requiring a  
295 person convicted of certain violations relating to  
296 boating under the influence to maintain an insurance  
297 policy that meets certain requirements; providing  
298 criminal penalties for failure to maintain such  
299 insurance; amending s. 327.395, F.S.; requiring all  
300 persons, rather than only persons born on or after a



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301 specified date, while operating a vessel, to have  
302 specified identification in their possession aboard  
303 the vessel; revising the required components of the  
304 commission's developed or approved boating safety  
305 education course or temporary certificate examination;  
306 amending s. 327.731, F.S.; revising the mandatory  
307 education requirements for a person convicted of  
308 certain violations; requiring the commission to adopt  
309 rules; making technical changes; amending s. 119.0712,  
310 F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; reenacting s.  
311 327.54(4), F.S., relating to liveries, to incorporate  
312 the amendment made to s. 327.395, F.S., in references  
313 thereto; providing effective dates.