

**The Florida Senate**  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

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[2025h00289.hms.cj]

BILL: CS/CS/CS/HB 289 (CS/CS/SB 628)

INTRODUCER: Judiciary Committee; State Affairs Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee;  
Oliver; Lopez, V.

SUBJECT: Boating Safety

DATE: May 1, 2025

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**I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

House Amendment 746971 to Senate Amendment 212806.

**II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

House Amendment 746971 amendment removes the SB language and replaces it with the most of the original House language.

The amendment provides it is a second degree misdemeanor to leave the scene of a vessel accident with property damage only. The SB provided this crime was a first degree misdemeanor.

The amendment provides a person who leaves the scene of a vessel accident resulting in death must be sentenced to a min/max of 4 years imprisonment. The SB did not have this provision.

The amendment removed provisions in the SB that provided it was a third degree felony to give a false statement regarding leaving the scene of a vessel accident.

The amendment provides a person who gives false information to information required under ch. 327, commits a second degree mm. The SB does not contain this provision.

The amendment provides it is a third degree misdemeanor to commit the offense of reckless boating with SBI. The SB provided this was a second degree felony and ranked it as a Level 2.

The amendment adds death of an unborn child to BUI manslaughter and provides that a person who is convicted of BUI manslaughter must serve a min/max of 4 years. The SB did not have these provisions.

The amendment provides that any person born before 1988 and who has not been a resident of Florida for at least five consecutive years, must have specified documentation to operate a boat.