

CS/HB 1173

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to boating-restricted areas; amending
s. 327.46, F.S.; authorizing municipalities and
counties to adopt ordinances to extend boating-
restricted areas under certain conditions; requiring
the boundaries of such areas to be clearly marked with
specified markers; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 327.46, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

327.46 Boating-restricted areas.—

(1) Boating-restricted areas, including, but not limited to, restrictions of vessel speeds and vessel traffic, may be established on the waters of this state for any purpose necessary to protect the safety of the public if such restrictions are necessary based on boating accidents, visibility, hazardous currents or water levels, vessel traffic congestion, or other navigational hazards or to protect seagrasses on privately owned submerged lands.

(c) Municipalities and counties may adopt have the authority to establish by ordinance the following ordinances for other boating-restricted areas:

25 1. An ordinance regulating vessel speed and operation
26 within 300 feet of a confluence of water bodies presenting a
27 blind corner, up to a distance of 1,000 feet if such extended
28 area is necessary to ensure safe navigation and visibility for
29 approaching vessels. The boundaries of such areas must be
30 clearly marked by uniform waterway regulatory markers consistent
31 with commission rules.

32 2.1. An ordinance establishing an idle speed, no wake
33 boating-restricted area, if the area is within 300 feet of a
34 confluence of water bodies presenting a blind corner, a bend in
35 a narrow channel or fairway, or such other area if an
36 intervening obstruction to visibility may obscure other vessels
37 or other users of the waterway.

38 3.2. An ordinance establishing a slow speed, minimum wake,
39 or numerical speed limit boating-restricted area if the area is:

40 a. Within 300 feet of a confluence of water bodies
41 presenting a blind corner, a bend in a narrow channel or
42 fairway, or such other area if an intervening obstruction to
43 visibility may obscure other vessels or other users of the
44 waterway.

45 b. Subject to unsafe levels of vessel traffic congestion.

46 c. Subject to hazardous water levels or currents, or
47 containing other navigational hazards.

48 d. An area that accident reports, uniform boating
49 citations, vessel traffic studies, or other creditable data

50 demonstrate to present a significant risk of collision or a
51 significant threat to boating safety.

52 4.3. An ordinance establishing a vessel-exclusion zone if
53 the area is reserved exclusively:

54 a. As a canoe trail or otherwise limited to vessels under
55 oars or under sail.

56 b. For a particular activity and user group separation
57 must be imposed to protect the safety of those participating in
58 such activity.

59
60 Any of the ordinances adopted pursuant to this paragraph may
61 ~~shall~~ not take effect until the commission has reviewed the
62 ordinance and determined by substantial competent evidence that
63 the ordinance is necessary to protect public safety pursuant to
64 this paragraph. Any application for approval of an ordinance
65 shall be reviewed and acted upon within 90 days after receipt of
66 a completed application. Within 30 days after a municipality or
67 county submits an application for approval to the commission,
68 the commission shall advise the municipality or county as to
69 what information, if any, is needed to deem the application
70 complete. An application shall be considered complete upon
71 receipt of all requested information and correction of any error
72 or omission for which the applicant was timely notified or when
73 the time for such notification has expired. The commission's
74 action on the application shall be subject to review under

75 chapter 120. The commission shall initiate rulemaking no later
76 than January 1, 2010, to provide criteria and procedures for
77 reviewing applications and procedures for providing for public
78 notice and participation pursuant to this paragraph.

79 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.