

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to recreational vessel registration;  
3 amending s. 328.72, F.S.; providing definitions;  
4 providing a reduced recreational vessel registration  
5 fee schedule for vessels registered during a specified  
6 period which are equipped with an emergency position  
7 indicating radio beacon or for which the owner of the  
8 vessel owns a personal locator beacon; limiting  
9 application to one vessel per owner; authorizing the  
10 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to  
11 adopt rules relating to proof of qualification;  
12 providing for certain funds to supplement the reduced  
13 amounts collected; providing for expiration of the  
14 reduced fee schedule; amending s. 328.76, F.S.,  
15 relating to the Marine Resources Conservation Trust  
16 Fund; providing for use of the supplemental funds;  
17 amending s. 328.66, F.S., relating to county and  
18 municipality optional registration fees; specifying  
19 that the reduced fees do not apply to the limitation  
20 on registration fees charged by a county; providing an  
21 effective date.

22  
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
25 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 328.72, Florida  
26 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (18) is added to that

27 section, to read:

28 328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges;  
 29 surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.-

30 (1) VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.-

31 (a) Vessels that are required to be registered shall be  
 32 classified for registration purposes according to the following  
 33 schedule, ~~and,~~ except as provided in subsection (18), the  
 34 registration certificate fee shall be in the following amounts:

35 1. Class A-1-Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes  
 36 to which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of  
 37 length: \$5.50 for each 12-month period registered.

38 2. Class A-2-12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in  
 39 length: \$16.25 for each 12-month period registered. ~~(To county):~~  
 40 2.85 for each 12-month period registered.

41 3. Class 1-16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in length:  
 42 \$28.75 for each 12-month period registered. ~~(To county):~~ 8.85  
 43 for each 12-month period registered.

44 4. Class 2-26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in  
 45 length: \$78.25 for each 12-month period registered. ~~(To county):~~  
 46 32.85 for each 12-month period registered.

47 5. Class 3-40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in  
 48 length: \$127.75 for each 12-month period registered. ~~(To~~  
 49 ~~county):~~ 56.85 for each 12-month period registered.

50 6. Class 4-65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in  
 51 length: \$152.75 for each 12-month period registered. ~~(To~~  
 52 ~~county):~~ 68.85 for each 12-month period registered.

53        7. Class 5–110 feet or more in length: \$189.75 for each  
 54 12-month period registered. ~~+(To county): 86.85 for each 12-month~~  
 55 period registered.

56        8. Dealer registration certificate: \$25.50 for each 12-  
 57 month period registered.

58        (b) The county portion of the vessel registration fee is  
 59 derived from recreational vessels only.

60        (18) REDUCED VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.—

61        (a) As used in this subsection, the term:

62        1. "Emergency position-indicating radio beacon" means a  
 63 device installed on the vessel being registered that:

64        a. Transmits distress signals at a frequency between 406.0  
 65 and 406.1 MHz;

66        b. Is manufactured by a company approved to manufacture  
 67 beacons by the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme; and

68        c. Is registered with the United States National Oceanic  
 69 and Atmospheric Administration.

70        2. "Full registration fee amount" means the registration  
 71 fee as provided in subsection (1) and not the reduced vessel  
 72 registration fee specified in this subsection.

73        3. "Personal locator beacon" means a device designed to be  
 74 carried by an individual that:

75        a. Transmits distress signals at a frequency between 406.0  
 76 and 406.1 MHz;

77        b. Is manufactured by a company approved to manufacture  
 78 beacons by the International Cospas-Sarsat Programme; and

79 c. Is registered with the United States National Oceanic  
 80 and Atmospheric Administration.

81 (b) The registration certificate fee imposed under  
 82 subsection (1) for a recreational vessel equipped with an  
 83 emergency position-indicating radio beacon, or for a  
 84 recreational vessel the owner of which owns a personal locator  
 85 beacon, shall be reduced to the following amounts for each 12-  
 86 month period registered:

87 1. Class A-1-\$4.24.

88 2. Class A-2-\$13.77.

89 3. Class 1-\$24.83.

90 4. Class 2-\$68.56.

91 5. Class 3-\$112.31.

92 6. Class 4-\$134.41.

93 7. Class 5-\$167.11.

94 (c) A person who owns a personal locator beacon and who  
 95 owns more than one recreational vessel qualifies to pay the  
 96 reduced fee under paragraph (b) for only one such vessel.

97 (d) In order to qualify for reduced registration fees  
 98 under this subsection, a vessel owner must, at the time of  
 99 registration, demonstrate that the vessel is equipped with an  
 100 emergency position-indicating radio beacon or that the vessel  
 101 owner owns a personal locator beacon. The Department of Highway  
 102 Safety and Motor Vehicles may adopt rules specifying what  
 103 constitutes sufficient proof to qualify for reduced registration  
 104 fees under this subsection, but such proof must contain, at a

105 minimum, the following:

- 106 1. The name of the beacon owner.  
107 2. The expiration date of the beacon's registration.  
108 3. The unique identification number of the beacon.  
109 4. For vessels equipped with an emergency position-  
110 indicating radio beacon, identification of the vessel equipped  
111 with the beacon.

112 (e) For each vessel registration qualifying for reduced  
113 registration fees under this subsection, an amount equal to the  
114 difference between the full registration fee amount and the  
115 actual amount of registration fee paid for such vessel  
116 registration shall be transferred from the General Revenue Fund  
117 to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and shall  
118 be distributed pursuant to s. 328.76.

119 (f) The reduced registration certificate fee amounts  
120 provided in this subsection apply only to applicable vessels  
121 registered during the period beginning July 1, 2016, and ending  
122 June 30, 2017.

123 (g) This subsection expires July 1, 2017.

124 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 328.76, Florida  
125 Statutes, is amended to read:

126 328.76 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; vessel  
127 registration funds; appropriation and distribution.—

128 (1) Except as otherwise specified in this subsection and  
129 less the amount equal to any administrative costs which shall be  
130 deposited in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, in each

131 fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2001, all funds  
132 collected from the registration of vessels through the  
133 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the tax  
134 collectors of the state and funds transferred from the General  
135 Revenue Fund pursuant to s. 328.72(18), except for those funds  
136 designated as the county portion pursuant to s. 328.72(1), shall  
137 be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for  
138 recreational channel marking; public launching facilities; law  
139 enforcement and quality control programs; aquatic weed control;  
140 manatee protection, recovery, rescue, rehabilitation, and  
141 release; and marine mammal protection and recovery. The funds  
142 collected pursuant to s. 328.72(1) shall be transferred as  
143 follows:

144 (a) In each fiscal year, an amount equal to \$1.50 for each  
145 commercial and recreational vessel registered in this state  
146 shall be transferred by the Department of Highway Safety and  
147 Motor Vehicles to the Save the Manatee Trust Fund and shall be  
148 used only for the purposes specified in s. 379.2431(4).

149 (b) An amount equal to \$2 from each recreational vessel  
150 registration fee, except that for class A-1 vessels, shall be  
151 transferred by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
152 Vehicles to the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund in the Fish  
153 and Wildlife Conservation Commission for aquatic weed research  
154 and control.

155 (c) An amount equal to 40 percent of the registration fees  
156 from commercial vessels shall be transferred by the Department

157 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the Invasive Plant  
 158 Control Trust Fund in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
 159 Commission for aquatic plant research and control.

160 (d) An amount equal to 40 percent of the registration fees  
 161 from commercial vessels shall be transferred by the Department  
 162 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, on a monthly basis, to the  
 163 General Inspection Trust Fund of the Department of Agriculture  
 164 and Consumer Services. These funds shall be used for shellfish  
 165 and aquaculture development and quality control programs.

166 (e) After all administrative costs are funded and the  
 167 distributions in paragraphs (a)-(d) have been made, up to  
 168 \$400,000 shall be transferred by the Department of Highway  
 169 Safety and Motor Vehicles to the General Inspection Trust Fund  
 170 of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to fund  
 171 activities relating to the protection, restoration, and research  
 172 of the natural oyster reefs and beds of the state. This  
 173 paragraph expires July 1, 2017.

174 (f) After all administrative costs are funded and the  
 175 distributions in paragraphs (a)-(d) have been made, up to  
 176 \$300,000 may be used by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
 177 Commission for boating safety education. This paragraph expires  
 178 July 1, 2017.

179 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 328.66, Florida  
 180 Statutes, is amended to read:

181 328.66 County and municipality optional registration fee.—

182 (1) Any county may impose an annual registration fee on

183 vessels registered, operated, used, or stored on the waters of  
184 this state within its jurisdiction. This fee shall be 50 percent  
185 of the applicable state registration fee as provided in s.  
186 328.72(1) and not the reduced vessel registration fee specified  
187 in s. 328.72(18). However, the first \$1 of every registration  
188 imposed under this subsection shall be remitted to the state for  
189 deposit in the Save the Manatee Trust Fund created within the  
190 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and shall be used  
191 only for the purposes specified in s. 379.2431(4). All other  
192 moneys received from such fee shall be expended for the patrol,  
193 regulation, and maintenance of the lakes, rivers, and waters and  
194 for other boating-related activities of such municipality or  
195 county. A municipality that was imposing a registration fee  
196 before April 1, 1984, may continue to levy such fee,  
197 notwithstanding the provisions of this section.

198 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.