

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to boating safety; providing a short
3 title; amending s. 327.30, F.S.; authorizing a court
4 to impose a specified fine for certain boating
5 collisions and accidents; requiring such fines to be
6 deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust
7 Fund for specified purposes; defining the terms
8 "convicted" and "conviction"; amending s. 327.54,
9 F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting liveries, beginning
10 on a specified date, from offering a vessel for lease
11 or rent without a livery permit; specifying
12 requirements and qualifications for the permit;
13 authorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
14 Commission to adopt rules; providing penalties for
15 permit violations; revising the conditions under which
16 a livery may not knowingly lease or rent a vessel;
17 requiring specified boating safety education courses
18 for certain instructors; requiring a person receiving
19 safety instruction to provide the livery with a
20 specified signed attestation; requiring liveries to
21 report certain issues and accidents; requiring
22 liveries to make facilities and records available to
23 law enforcement upon notice; providing penalties for
24 violations and additional penalties for subsequent
25 violations; prohibiting violators from operating a

26 vessel or acting as a livery for a specified timeframe
27 after such a violation; authorizing the commission,
28 beginning on a specified date, to revoke or refuse to
29 issue permits for repeated violations; amending s.
30 327.73, F.S.; increasing fines for violations of
31 certain boating regulations; providing fines for
32 improper transfers of title and failures to update
33 vessel registration information; authorizing certain
34 fees and penalties deposited into the Marine Resources
35 Conservation Trust Fund to be used for law enforcement
36 purposes; amending s. 327.731, F.S.; imposing a fine
37 for persons convicted of certain criminal or
38 noncriminal infractions; providing for the deposit of
39 such fines into the Marine Resources Conservation
40 Trust Fund; requiring the commission to maintain a
41 program to ensure compliance with certain boating
42 safety education requirements; specifying requirements
43 for the program; amending s. 328.03, F.S.; providing
44 that an improper transfer of vessel title is subject
45 to a civil penalty; amending s. 328.48, F.S.;
46 requiring that the address provided in a vessel
47 registration application and a certificate of
48 registration be a physical residential or business
49 address; authorizing the commission to accept post
50 office box addresses in lieu of the physical

51 residential or business address under certain
 52 circumstances; providing that a person who fails to
 53 update his or her vessel registration information
 54 within a specified timeframe is subject to a civil
 55 penalty; providing effective dates.

56
 57 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

58
 59 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Boating Safety
 60 Act of 2022."

61 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 327.30,
 62 Florida Statutes, to read:

63 327.30 Collisions, accidents, and casualties.—

64 (7) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a
 65 court may order a person convicted of a violation of this
 66 section or of any rule adopted or order issued by the commission
 67 pursuant to this section to pay an additional fine of up to
 68 \$1,000 per violation, which must be deposited into the Marine
 69 Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used to enhance state
 70 and local law enforcement activities related to boating
 71 infractions. As used in this subsection, the terms "convicted"
 72 and "conviction" mean any judicial disposition other than
 73 acquittal or dismissal.

74 Section 3. Section 327.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 75 read:

327.54 Liveries; safety regulations; penalty.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Conviction" means any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal.

(b) "Livery" means a person who offers a vessel equipped with a motor of 10 horsepower or greater for use by another in exchange for any type of consideration when such person does not also provide the lessee or renter with a captain, a crew, or any type of staff or personnel to operate, oversee, maintain, or manage the vessel. A vessel rented or leased by a livery is a livery vessel as defined in s. 327.02.

(c) "Seaworthy" means the vessel and all of its parts and equipment, including, but not limited to, engines, bilge pumps, and kill switches, are functional and reasonably fit for their intended purpose.

(2) Beginning on January 1, 2023, a livery may not offer a vessel for lease or rent without first being issued a no-cost livery permit by the commission. The permit must be renewed annually. To qualify for issuance or renewal of a livery permit, an applicant must provide the commission with a list of all vessels offered by the livery for lease or rent by another, have valid insurance pursuant to paragraph (3)(j), have an amount of United States Coast Guard-approved lawful personal floatation devices on site sufficient to accommodate the capacity of all vessels offered by the livery for rent or lease by another, have

101 on site all safety equipment required by s. 327.50 and the Code
102 of Federal Regulations sufficient to equip all vessels offered
103 by the livery for rent or lease by another, and display the
104 information required by paragraph (3) (f). If, before the annual
105 renewal of the permit, the information required by this
106 subsection changes, the livery must provide the commission with
107 the updated information within 10 days after the change.

108 (a) The commission may adopt rules to implement this
109 subsection.

110 (b) A person who violates this subsection commits a
111 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
112 775.082 or s. 775.083.

113 (3)~~(1)~~ A livery may not knowingly lease, ~~hire,~~ or rent a
114 vessel to any person:

115 (a) When the number of persons intending to use the vessel
116 exceeds the number considered to constitute a maximum safety
117 load for the vessel as specified on the authorized persons
118 capacity plate of the vessel.

119 (b) When the horsepower of the motor exceeds the capacity
120 of the vessel.

121 (c) When the vessel does not contain the ~~required~~ safety
122 equipment required under s. 327.50.

123 (d) When the vessel is not seaworthy, is a derelict vessel
124 as defined in s. 823.11, or is at risk of becoming derelict as
125 provided in s. 327.4107.

126 ~~(e) When the vessel is equipped with a motor of 10~~
 127 ~~horsepower or greater,~~ Unless the livery provides pre-rental
 128 ~~prerental or pre-ride preride~~ instruction in compliance with
 129 rules established by the commission. The instruction must
 130 include that includes, but need not be limited to:

- 131 1. Operational characteristics of the vessel to be rented.
- 132 2. Safe vessel operation and vessel right-of-way.
- 133 3. The responsibility of the vessel operator for the safe
 134 and proper operation of the vessel.
- 135 4. Local characteristics of the waterway where the vessel
 136 will be operated, such as navigational hazards, the presence of
 137 boating-restricted areas, and water depths.
- 138 5. Emergency procedures such as appropriate responses to
 139 capsizing, falls overboard, taking on water, and vessel
 140 accidents.

141

142 ~~Any person delivering the information specified in this~~
 143 ~~paragraph must have successfully completed a boater safety~~
 144 ~~course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law~~
 145 ~~Administrators and this state.~~

146 (f) Unless the livery displays boating safety information
 147 in a place visible to the renting public. The commission shall
 148 prescribe by rule, pursuant to chapter 120, the contents and
 149 size of the boating safety information to be displayed.

150 (g) Unless the livery has a written agreement with the

151 renter or lessee. The written agreement must include a list of
152 the names, addresses, and dates of birth for all persons who
153 will be aboard the vessel, as well as the time the vessel is
154 required to be returned to the livery or another specified
155 location and an emergency contact name, address, and telephone
156 number. The livery shall maintain each agreement for no less
157 than 1 year and, upon request, make each agreement available for
158 inspection by law enforcement.

159 (h) Who is required to comply with s. 327.395, unless such
160 person presents to the livery the documentation required by s.
161 327.395(2) for the operation of a vessel or meets the exemption
162 provided under s. 327.395(6)(f).

163 (i) Who is under 18 years of age.

164 (j) Unless the livery first obtains and carries in full
165 force and effect a policy from a licensed insurance carrier in
166 this state which insures the livery and renter or lessee against
167 any accident, loss, injury, property damage, or other casualty
168 caused by or resulting from the operation of the vessel. The
169 insurance policy must provide coverage of at least \$500,000 per
170 person and \$1 million per event. The livery and renter or lessee
171 shall have proof of such insurance available for inspection at
172 the location where the livery's vessels are being leased or
173 rented, or offered for lease or rent, and shall provide to each
174 renter the insurance carrier's name and address and the
175 insurance policy number.

176 (4) Notwithstanding the person's age or any exemptions
177 provided in s. 327.395, any person delivering instruction
178 regarding the safe operation of vessels or pre-rental or pre-
179 ride instruction in accordance with subsection (3) must have
180 successfully completed a boating safety education course
181 approved by the National Association of State Boating Law
182 Administrators and this state.

183 (5) A person who receives instruction regarding the safe
184 operation of vessels or pre-rental or pre-ride instruction in
185 accordance with subsection (3) must provide the livery with a
186 signed form attesting to each component of the instruction.

187 (a) The commission shall establish by rule the content of
188 the form.

189 (b) The form must be signed by the individual providing
190 the instruction.

191 (c) The livery shall maintain the form for no less than 90
192 days and, upon request, make the form available for inspection
193 by law enforcement.

194 ~~(2) A livery may not knowingly lease, hire, or rent a~~
195 ~~vessel to a person who is required to comply with s. 327.395~~
196 ~~unless such person presents to the livery the documentation~~
197 ~~required by s. 327.395(2) for the operation of a vessel or meets~~
198 ~~the exemption provided under s. 327.395(6)(f).~~

199 ~~(6)(3)~~ If a vessel rented or leased by a livery is
200 unnecessarily overdue more than 1 hour after the contracted

201 vessel rental time has expired, the livery must ~~shall~~ notify law
202 enforcement and the United States Coast Guard ~~the proper~~
203 authorities.

204 (7) If a vessel rented or leased by a livery is involved
205 in an accident, the livery must, as applicable under s. 327.301,
206 report the accident.

207 (8) A livery shall make its facilities and records
208 available for inspection upon request by law enforcement no
209 later than 24 hours after receiving notice from law enforcement.

210 (9) (a) A person who violates this section other than
211 subsection (2), but who has not been convicted of a violation of
212 this section within the past 3 years, commits a misdemeanor of
213 the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
214 775.083.

215 (b) Unless the stricter penalties in paragraph (c) apply,
216 a person who violates this section other than subsection (2)
217 within 3 years after a previous conviction of a violation of
218 this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,
219 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, with a
220 minimum mandatory fine of \$500.

221 (c) A person who violates this section other than
222 subsection (2) within 5 years after two previous convictions for
223 a violation of this section commits a misdemeanor of the first
224 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, with
225 a minimum mandatory fine of \$1,000.

226 (10) A person who commits more than one violation of this
227 section, other than subsection (2), within a 3-year period may
228 not act as a livery during a 90-day period immediately after
229 being charged with that violation. Beginning January 1, 2023,
230 the commission may revoke or refuse to issue a permit under
231 subsection (2) based on repeated violations of this section.

232 ~~(4)(a) A livery may not knowingly lease, hire, or rent a~~
233 ~~personal watercraft to any person who is under 18 years of age.~~

234 ~~(b) A livery may not knowingly lease, hire, or rent a~~
235 ~~personal watercraft to any person who has not received~~
236 ~~instruction in the safe handling of personal watercraft, in~~
237 ~~compliance with rules established by the commission pursuant to~~
238 ~~chapter 120.~~

239 ~~(c) Any person receiving instruction in the safe handling~~
240 ~~of personal watercraft pursuant to a program established by rule~~
241 ~~of the commission must provide the livery with a written~~
242 ~~statement attesting to the same.~~

243 ~~(5) A livery may not lease, hire, or rent any personal~~
244 ~~watercraft or offer to lease, hire, or rent any personal~~
245 ~~watercraft unless the livery first obtains and carries in full~~
246 ~~force and effect a policy from a licensed insurance carrier in~~
247 ~~this state, insuring against any accident, loss, injury,~~
248 ~~property damage, or other casualty caused by or resulting from~~
249 ~~the operation of the personal watercraft. The insurance policy~~
250 ~~shall provide coverage of at least \$500,000 per person and \$1~~

251 ~~million per event. The livery must have proof of such insurance~~
252 ~~available for inspection at the location where personal~~
253 ~~watercraft are being leased, hired, or rented, or offered for~~
254 ~~lease, hire, or rent, and shall provide to each renter the~~
255 ~~insurance carrier's name and address and the insurance policy~~
256 ~~number.~~

257 ~~(6) Any person convicted of violating this section commits~~
258 ~~a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.~~
259 ~~775.082 or s. 775.083.~~

260 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (8) of section 327.73,
261 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

262 327.73 Noncriminal infractions.—

263 (1) Violations of the following provisions of the vessel
264 laws of this state are noncriminal infractions:

265 (a) Section 328.46, relating to operation of unregistered
266 and unnumbered vessels.

267 (b) Section 328.48(4), relating to display of number and
268 possession of registration certificate.

269 (c) Section 328.48(5), relating to display of decal.

270 (d) Section 328.52(2), relating to display of number.

271 (e) Section 328.54, relating to spacing of digits and
272 letters of identification number.

273 (f) Section 328.60, relating to military personnel and
274 registration of vessels.

275 (g) Section 328.72(13), relating to operation with an

276 | expired registration, for which the penalty is:
 277 | 1. For a first or subsequent offense of s. 328.72(13)(a),
 278 | up to a maximum of \$100 ~~\$50~~.
 279 | 2. For a first offense of s. 328.72(13)(b), up to a
 280 | maximum of \$250.
 281 | 3. For a second or subsequent offense of s. 328.72(13)(b),
 282 | up to a maximum of \$500. Any person cited for a noncriminal
 283 | infraction under this subparagraph may not have the provisions
 284 | of paragraph (4)(a) available to him or her but must appear
 285 | before the designated official at the time and location of the
 286 | scheduled hearing.
 287 | (h) Section 327.33(2), relating to careless operation.
 288 | (i) Section 327.37, relating to water skiing, aquaplaning,
 289 | parasailing, and similar activities.
 290 | (j) Section 327.44, relating to interference with
 291 | navigation.
 292 | (k) Violations relating to boating-restricted areas and
 293 | speed limits:
 294 | 1. Established by the commission or by local governmental
 295 | authorities pursuant to s. 327.46.
 296 | 2. Speed limits established pursuant to s. 379.2431(2).
 297 | (l) Section 327.48, relating to regattas and races.
 298 | (m) Section 327.50(1) and (2), relating to required safety
 299 | equipment, lights, and shapes.
 300 | (n) Section 327.65, relating to muffling devices.

301 (o) Section 327.33(3) (b), relating to a violation of
 302 navigation rules:

303 1. That does not result in an accident; or

304 2. That results in an accident not causing serious bodily
 305 injury or death, for which the penalty is:

306 a. For a first offense, up to a maximum of \$500 ~~\$250~~.

307 b. For a second offense, up to a maximum of \$1,000 ~~\$750~~.

308 c. For a third or subsequent offense, up to a maximum of
 309 \$1,500 ~~\$1,000~~.

310 (p) Section 327.39(1), (2), (3), and (5), relating to
 311 personal watercraft.

312 (q) Section 327.53(1), (2), (3), and (8), relating to
 313 marine sanitation.

314 (r) Section 327.53(4), (5), and (7), relating to marine
 315 sanitation, and s. 327.60, relating to no-discharge zones, for
 316 which the civil penalty is \$250.

317 (s) Section 327.395, relating to boater safety education.
 318 However, a person cited for violating the requirements of s.
 319 327.395 relating to failure to have required proof of boating
 320 safety education in his or her possession may not be convicted
 321 if, before or at the time of a county court hearing, the person
 322 produces proof of the boating safety education identification
 323 card or temporary certificate for verification by the hearing
 324 officer or the court clerk and the identification card or
 325 temporary certificate was valid at the time the person was

326 | cited.

327 | (t) Section 327.52(3), relating to operation of overloaded
328 | or overpowered vessels.

329 | (u) Section 327.331, relating to divers-down warning
330 | devices, except for violations meeting the requirements of s.
331 | 327.33.

332 | (v) Section 327.391(1), relating to the requirement for an
333 | adequate muffler on an airboat.

334 | (w) Section 327.391(3), relating to the display of a flag
335 | on an airboat.

336 | (x) Section 253.04(3)(a), relating to carelessly causing
337 | seagrass scarring, for which the civil penalty upon conviction
338 | is:

339 | 1. For a first offense, \$100 ~~\$50~~.

340 | 2. For a second offense occurring within 12 months after a
341 | prior conviction, \$250.

342 | 3. For a third offense occurring within 36 months after a
343 | prior conviction, \$500.

344 | 4. For a fourth or subsequent offense occurring within 72
345 | months after a prior conviction, \$1,000.

346 | (y) Section 327.45, relating to protection zones for
347 | springs, for which the penalty is:

348 | 1. For a first offense, \$100 ~~\$50~~.

349 | 2. For a second offense occurring within 12 months after a
350 | prior conviction, \$250.

351 3. For a third offense occurring within 36 months after a
352 prior conviction, \$500.

353 4. For a fourth or subsequent offense occurring within 72
354 months after a prior conviction, \$1,000.

355 (z) Section 327.4108, relating to the anchoring of vessels
356 in anchoring limitation areas, for which the penalty is:

357 1. For a first offense, up to a maximum of \$100 ~~\$50~~.

358 2. For a second offense, up to a maximum of \$250 ~~\$100~~.

359 3. For a third or subsequent offense, up to a maximum of
360 \$500 ~~\$250~~.

361 (aa) Section 327.4107, relating to vessels at risk of
362 becoming derelict on waters of this state, for which the civil
363 penalty is:

364 1. For a first offense, \$100.

365 2. For a second offense occurring 30 days or more after a
366 first offense, \$250.

367 3. For a third or subsequent offense occurring 30 days or
368 more after a previous offense, \$500.

369
370 A vessel that is the subject of three or more violations issued
371 pursuant to the same paragraph of s. 327.4107(2) within an 18-
372 month period which result in dispositions other than acquittal
373 or dismissal shall be declared to be a public nuisance and
374 subject to ss. 705.103(2) and (4) and 823.11(3). The commission,
375 an officer of the commission, or a law enforcement agency or

376 officer specified in s. 327.70 may relocate, remove, or cause to
 377 be relocated or removed such public nuisance vessels from waters
 378 of this state. The commission, an officer of the commission, or
 379 a law enforcement agency or officer acting pursuant to this
 380 paragraph upon waters of this state shall be held harmless for
 381 all damages to the vessel resulting from such relocation or
 382 removal unless the damage results from gross negligence or
 383 willful misconduct as these terms are defined in s. 823.11.

384 (bb) Section 327.4109, relating to anchoring or mooring in
 385 a prohibited area, for which the penalty is:

- 386 1. For a first offense, up to a maximum of \$100 ~~\$50~~.
- 387 2. For a second offense, up to a maximum of \$250 ~~\$100~~.
- 388 3. For a third or subsequent offense, up to a maximum of
 389 \$500 ~~\$250~~.

390 (cc) Section 327.463(4)(a) and (b), relating to vessels
 391 creating special hazards, for which the penalty is:

- 392 1. For a first offense, \$100 ~~\$50~~.
- 393 2. For a second offense occurring within 12 months after a
 394 prior offense, \$250 ~~\$100~~.
- 395 3. For a third offense occurring within 36 months after a
 396 prior offense, \$500 ~~\$250~~.

397 (dd) Section 327.371, relating to the regulation of human-
 398 powered vessels.

399 (ee) Section 328.03, relating to an improper transfer of
 400 title, for which the penalty is up to a maximum of \$500.

401 (ff) Section 328.48(9), relating to the failure to update
 402 vessel registration information, for which the penalty is up to
 403 a maximum of \$500.

404
 405 Any person cited for a violation of ~~any provision of this~~
 406 subsection shall be deemed to be charged with a noncriminal
 407 infraction, shall be cited for such an infraction, and shall be
 408 cited to appear before the county court. The civil penalty for
 409 any such infraction is \$100 ~~\$50~~, except as otherwise provided in
 410 this section. Any person who fails to appear or otherwise
 411 properly respond to a uniform boating citation ~~shall~~, in
 412 addition to the charge relating to the violation of the boating
 413 laws of this state, must be charged with the offense of failing
 414 to respond to such citation and, upon conviction, be guilty of a
 415 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
 416 775.082 or s. 775.083. A written warning to this effect shall be
 417 provided at the time such uniform boating citation is issued.

418 (8) All fees and civil penalties assessed and collected
 419 pursuant to this section shall be remitted by the clerk of the
 420 court to the Department of Revenue to be deposited into the
 421 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for boating safety
 422 education or law enforcement purposes.

423 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 327.731, Florida
 424 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that
 425 section, to read:

426 327.731 Mandatory education for violators.—

427 (1) A person convicted of a criminal violation under this

428 chapter, convicted of a noncriminal infraction under this

429 chapter if the infraction resulted in a reportable boating

430 accident, or convicted of two noncriminal infractions as

431 specified in s. 327.73(1)(h)-(k), (m), (o), (p), and (s)-(y),

432 the said infractions occurring within a 12-month period, must:

433 (a) Enroll in, attend, and successfully complete, at his

434 or her own expense, a classroom or online boating safety course

435 that is approved by and meets the minimum standards established

436 by commission rule;

437 (b) File with the commission within 90 days proof of

438 successful completion of the course; ~~and~~

439 (c) Refrain from operating a vessel until he or she has

440 filed proof of successful completion of the course with the

441 commission; and

442 (d) Pay a fine of \$500. The clerk of the court shall remit

443 all fines assessed and collected under this paragraph to the

444 Department of Revenue to be deposited into the Marine Resources

445 Conservation Trust Fund to support law enforcement activities.

446 (4) The commission shall maintain a program to ensure

447 compliance with the mandatory boating safety education

448 requirements under this section. This program must:

449 (a) Track any citations resulting in a conviction under

450 this section and the disposition of such citations.

451 (b) Send specific notices to each person subject to the
 452 requirement for mandatory boating safety education.

453 Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 328.03, Florida
 454 Statutes, is amended to read:

455 328.03 Certificate of title required.—

456 (3) A person may ~~shall~~ not sell, assign, or transfer a
 457 vessel titled by the state without delivering to the purchaser
 458 or transferee a valid certificate of title with an assignment on
 459 it showing the transfer of title to the purchaser or transferee.
 460 A person may ~~shall~~ not purchase or otherwise acquire a vessel
 461 required to be titled by the state without obtaining a
 462 certificate of title for the vessel in his or her name. The
 463 purchaser or transferee shall, within 30 days after a change in
 464 vessel ownership, file an application for a title transfer with
 465 the county tax collector. An additional \$10 fee must ~~shall~~ be
 466 charged against the purchaser or transferee if he or she files a
 467 title transfer application after the 30-day period. The county
 468 tax collector may ~~shall be entitled to~~ retain \$5 of the
 469 additional amount. Any person who does not properly transfer
 470 title of a vessel pursuant to this chapter is subject to the
 471 penalties provided in s. 327.73(1)(ee).

472 Section 7. Effective July 1, 2023, subsection (4) of
 473 section 328.03, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2019-76,
 474 Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

475 328.03 Certificate of title required.—

476 (4) An additional \$10 fee shall be charged against the
477 purchaser or transferee if he or she files a title transfer
478 application after the 30-day period. The county tax collector
479 ~~may shall be entitled to~~ retain \$5 of the additional amount. Any
480 person who does not properly transfer title of a vessel pursuant
481 to this chapter is subject to the penalties provided in s.
482 327.73(1)(ee).

483 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection
484 (4) of section 328.48, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
485 subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

486 328.48 Vessel registration, application, certificate,
487 number, decal, duplicate certificate.—

488 (1)(a) The owner of each vessel required by this law to
489 pay a registration fee and secure an identification number shall
490 file an application with the county tax collector. The
491 application must ~~shall~~ provide the owner's name and physical
492 residential or business address; residency status; personal or
493 business identification; and a complete description of the
494 vessel, and must ~~shall~~ be accompanied by payment of the
495 applicable fee required in s. 328.72. An individual applicant
496 must provide a valid driver license or identification card
497 issued by this state or another state or a valid passport. A
498 business applicant must provide a federal employer
499 identification number, if applicable, verification that the
500 business is authorized to conduct business in this ~~the~~ state, or

501 a Florida city or county business license or number.
502 Registration is not required for any vessel that is not used on
503 the waters of this state. Upon receipt of an application from a
504 live-aboard vessel owner, the commission may authorize such
505 owner to provide a post office box address in lieu of a physical
506 residential or business address so long as he or she has not
507 been convicted of a criminal offense under this chapter or
508 chapter 327.

509 (4) Each certificate of registration issued must ~~shall~~
510 state among other items the numbers awarded to the vessel, the
511 hull identification number, the name and physical residential or
512 business address of the owner, and a description of the vessel,
513 except that certificates of registration for vessels constructed
514 or assembled by the owner registered for the first time must
515 ~~shall~~ state all the foregoing information except the hull
516 identification number. The numbers must ~~shall~~ be placed on each
517 side of the forward half of the vessel in such position as to
518 provide clear legibility for identification, except, if the
519 vessel is an airboat, the numbers may be placed on each side of
520 the rudder. The numbers awarded to the vessel must ~~shall~~ read
521 from left to right and must ~~shall~~ be in block characters of good
522 proportion not less than 3 inches in height. The numbers must
523 ~~shall~~ be of a solid color that ~~which~~ will contrast with the
524 color of the background and must ~~shall~~ be so maintained as to be
525 clearly visible and legible; i.e., dark numbers on a light

526 background or light numbers on a dark background. The
527 certificate of registration must ~~shall~~ be pocket-sized and must
528 ~~shall~~ be available for inspection on the vessel for which issued
529 whenever such vessel is in operation. Upon receipt of an
530 application from a live-aboard vessel owner, the commission may
531 authorize such owner to provide a post office box address in
532 lieu of a physical residential address so long as he or she has
533 not been convicted of a criminal offense under this chapter or
534 chapter 327.

535 (9) A person who does not update his or her vessel
536 registration information with the county tax collector within 6
537 months after a change to the information is subject to the
538 penalties provided in s. 327.73(1)(ff).

539 Section 9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
540 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2022.