

CHAPTER 2017-28

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 711

An act relating to vessel registrations; amending s. 328.72, F.S.; revising a reduction of vessel registration fees for recreational vessels equipped with certain position indicating and locating beacons; deleting a registration date limitation; deleting an expiration date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (18) of section 328.72, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges; surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.—

(18) REDUCED VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.—

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

1. “Emergency position-indicating radio beacon” means a device installed on the vessel being registered that:

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

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

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

2. “Full registration fee amount” means the registration fee as provided in subsection (1) and not the reduced vessel registration fee specified in this subsection.

3. “Personal locator beacon” means a device designed to be carried by an individual that:

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

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

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

(b) The registration certificate fee imposed under subsection (1) for a recreational vessel equipped with an emergency position-indicating radio

beacon, or for a recreational vessel the owner of which owns a personal locator beacon, shall be reduced to the following amounts for each 12-month period registered:

1. Class A-1—~~\$2.95~~ \$4.24.
2. Class A-2—~~\$11.00~~ \$13.77.
3. Class 1—~~\$20.40~~ \$24.83.
4. Class 2—~~\$57.50~~ \$68.56.
5. Class 3—~~\$94.95~~ \$112.31.
6. Class 4—~~\$113.40~~ \$134.41.
7. Class 5—~~\$141.15~~ \$167.11.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor May 23, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 23, 2017.