

CHAPTER 2018-137

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1211

An act relating to airboat regulation; providing a short title; amending s. 327.391, F.S.; requiring a commercial airboat operator to have specified documents onboard the airboat while carrying passengers for hire; providing an exception; providing a penalty; directing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to adopt rules by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as “Ellie’s Law.”

Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 327.391, Florida Statutes, to read:

327.391 Airboats regulated.—

(5)(a) Beginning July 1, 2019, a person may not operate an airboat to carry one or more passengers for hire on waters of the state unless he or she has all of the following onboard the airboat:

1. A photographic identification card.

2. Proof of completion of a boater education course that complies with s. 327.395(1)(a). Except as provided in paragraph (b), no operator is exempt from this requirement, regardless of age or the exemptions provided under s. 327.395.

3. Proof of successful completion of a commission-approved airboat operator course that meets the minimum standards established by commission rule.

4. Proof of successful course completion in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

(b) A person issued a captain’s license by the United States Coast Guard is not required to complete a boating safety education course that complies with s. 327.395(1)(a). Proof of the captain’s license must be onboard the airboat when carrying one or more passengers for hire on waters of the state.

(c) A person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(d) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this subsection no later than October 1, 2018.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 30, 2018.