

CHAPTER 2018-27

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1132

An act relating to vessel safety inspection decals; amending s. 327.70, F.S.; providing rulemaking authority to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding expiration and design of safety inspection decals; specifying standards for such rulemaking; providing a minimum and maximum period of validity for the decal; specifying that decals issued on or before a specified date are no longer valid after that date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 327.70, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

327.70 Enforcement of this chapter and chapter 328.—

(2)(a)1. Upon demonstrated compliance with the safety equipment carriage and use requirements of this chapter during a safety inspection initiated by a law enforcement officer, the operator of a vessel shall be issued a safety inspection decal signifying that the vessel is deemed to have met the safety equipment carriage and use requirements of this chapter at the time and location of such inspection. The commission may designate by rule the timeframe for expiration of, and the specific design for, the safety inspection decal. However, a decal may not be valid for less than 1 calendar year or more than 5 years and, at a minimum, must meet the standards specified in this paragraph. All decals issued by the commission on or before December 31, 2018, are no longer valid after that date.

2. The safety inspection decal, if displayed, must be located within 6 inches of the inspected vessel's properly displayed vessel registration decal. For nonmotorized vessels that are not required to be registered, the safety inspection decal, if displayed, must be located above the waterline on the forward half of the port side of the vessel.

Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 19, 2018.