

Senate Bill No. 32-C

An act relating to vessel registration fees; amending s. 328.72, F.S.; specifying source of the county portion of vessel registration fees; providing for the return of certain vessel registration fees to the vessel owner's county of Florida residence; amending s. 328.76, F.S.; clarifying provisions relating to distribution and uses of funds in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (15) of section 328.72, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(1) VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.—Vessels that are required to be registered shall be classified for registration purposes according to the following schedule, and the registration certificate fee shall be in the following amounts:

Class A-1—Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes to which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of length	\$3.50
Class A-2—12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in length	10.50
(To county)	2.85
Class 1—16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in length	18.50
(To county)	8.85
Class 2—26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in length	50.50
(To county)	32.85
Class 3—40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in length	82.50
(To county)	56.85
Class 4—65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in length	98.50
(To county)	68.85
Class 5—110 feet or more in length	122.50
(To county)	86.85
Dealer registration certificate	16.50

The county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived from recreational vessels only.

(15) DISTRIBUTION OF FEES.—Except for the first \$1, which shall be remitted to the state for deposit into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund created within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, moneys designated for the use of the counties, as specified in subsection (1), shall be distributed by the tax collector to the board of county commissioners for use

as provided in this section. Such moneys to be returned to the counties are for the sole purposes of providing recreational channel marking and public launching facilities and other boating-related activities, for removal of vessels and floating structures deemed a hazard to public safety and health for failure to comply with s. 327.53, and for manatee and marine mammal protection and recovery.

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

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

(1) Except as otherwise specified in this subsection and less \$1.4 million for any administrative costs which shall be deposited in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, in each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2001, all funds collected from the registration of vessels through the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the tax collectors of the state, except for those funds designated as the county portion for the use of the counties pursuant to s. 328.72(1), shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for recreational channel marking; public launching facilities; law enforcement and quality control programs; aquatic weed control; manatee protection, recovery, rescue, rehabilitation, and release; and marine mammal protection and recovery. The funds collected pursuant to s. 328.72(1) shall be transferred as follows:

(a) In each fiscal year, an amount equal to \$1.50 for each commercial and recreational vessel registered in this state shall be transferred by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the Save the Manatee Trust Fund and shall be used only for the purposes specified in s. 370.12(4).

(b) An amount equal to \$2 Two dollars from each recreational noncommercial vessel registration fee, except that for class A-1 vessels, shall be transferred by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund in the Department of Environmental Protection for aquatic weed research and control.

(c) An amount equal to 40 Forty percent of the registration fees from commercial vessels shall be transferred by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund in the Department of Environmental Protection for aquatic plant research and control.

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

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

Approved by the Governor December 17, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State December 17, 2001.