

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1286

An act relating to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; reenacting s. 20.331, F.S., relating to the establishment of the commission; amending ss. 328.48 and 328.56, F.S., relating to vessel registration and vessel registration numbers; clarifying the term “non-motor-powered vessel” for purposes of an exception from registration requirements; amending s. 328.72, F.S., relating to vessel registration fees; increasing such fees for all vessels requiring registration; providing for future adjustment of the vessel registration fees based on the percentage change in the Consumer Pricing Index; requiring the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to report to the Legislature on how the increase in fees will be used; exempting certain non-motor-powered vessels from requirements concerning vessel registration fees; amending s. 372.57, F.S., relating to recreational hunting and fishing licenses; providing for future adjustment of the recreational hunting and fishing licenses based on the percentage change in the Consumer Pricing Index; requiring the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to report to the Legislature on how the increase in license and permit fees will be used; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to review and report on the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s public relations, outreach, and education activities and staffing levels by a date certain; requiring the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to review and report on specific activities within the agency by a date certain; repealing sections 372.107, 372.5714, 372.673, and 372.992, F.S., relating to the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund, the Waterfowl Advisory Council, the Florida Panther Technical Advisory Council, and the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 20.331, Florida Statutes, is reenacted.

Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 328.48, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2) All vessels used on the waters of the state must be registered, either commercial or recreational as defined in this chapter, except as follows:

- (a) A vessel used exclusively on private lakes and ponds.
- (b) A vessel owned by the United States Government.
- (c) A vessel used exclusively as a ship’s lifeboat.

(d) A non-motor-powered vessel less than 16 feet in length, and any non-motor-powered canoe, kayak, racing shell, or rowing scull, regardless of length.

Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 328.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

328.56 Vessel registration number.—Each vessel that is used on the waters of the state must display a commercial or recreational Florida registration number, unless it is:

(4) A non-motor-powered vessel less than 16 feet in length, and any non-motor-powered canoe, kayak, racing shell, or rowing scull, regardless of length.

Section 4. Subsections (1) and (14) 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.—

(a) 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: \$5.50 ~~\$3.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

Class A-2—12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in length: \$16.25 ~~10.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.
(To county): 2.85 for each 12-month period registered.

Class 1—16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in length: \$28.75 ~~18.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.
(To county): 8.85 for each 12-month period registered.

Class 2—26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in length: \$78.25 ~~50.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.
(To county): 32.85 for each 12-month period registered.

Class 3—40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in length: \$127.75 ~~82.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.
(To county): 56.85 for each 12-month period registered.

Class 4—65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in length: \$152.75 ~~98.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.
(To county): 68.85 for each 12-month period registered.

Class 5—110 feet or more in length: \$189.75 ~~122.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.
(To county): 86.85 for each 12-month period registered.

Dealer registration certificate: ~~\$25.50~~ ~~16.50~~ for each 12-month period registered.

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

(b) In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, vessel registration fees shall be adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers since the fees were last adjusted, unless otherwise provided by general law. By February 1 of each year in which an adjustment is scheduled to occur, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing how the increase in vessel registration fees will be used within the agency. The vessel registration fee increases shall take effect July 1 of each adjustment year.

(14) EXEMPTIONS.—The following vessels are exempt from provisions of subsection (1):

(a) A vessel that is ~~Vessels~~ owned and operated by Sea Explorer or Sea Scout units of the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, the Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies, Inc., Safe Harbor Haven, Inc., or the Associated Marine Institutes, Inc., and its affiliates, ~~or~~ ~~which are~~

(b) An antique vessel ~~vessels as defined in paragraph (2)(a) are exempt from the provisions of subsection (1).~~

(c) A non-motor-powered sailing vessel that is owned by a nonprofit entity and used exclusively for teaching boating safety, boat handling, or seamanship skills, including the racing of such sailing vessels.

Such vessels shall be issued certificates of registration and numbers upon application and payment of the service fee provided in subsection (7).

Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 372.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

372.57 Recreational licenses, permits, and authorization numbers; fees established.—

(1) LICENSE, PERMIT, OR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER REQUIRED.—

(a) Except as provided in s. 372.562, no person shall take game, freshwater or saltwater fish, or fur-bearing animals within this state without having first obtained a license, permit, or authorization number and paid the fees set forth in this chapter. Such license, permit, or authorization number shall authorize the person to whom it is issued to take game, freshwater or saltwater fish, or fur-bearing animals, and participate in outdoor recreational activities in accordance with the laws of the state and rules of the commission.

(b) In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, license and permit fees established in subsections (4) and (5) shall be adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers since the fees were last adjusted, unless otherwise provided by general law. By February 1 of each year in which an adjustment is scheduled to occur, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing how the increase in license and permit fees will be used within the agency. The license and permit fee increases shall take effect July 1 of each adjustment year.

Section 6. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is directed to review and compare the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's public relations and outreach staffing levels in its Executive Direction and Administrative Services division to an agency of similar makeup and size in order to determine whether any efficiencies can be achieved through restructuring or downsizing. The office shall provide its findings and recommendations in the form of a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

Section 7. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is directed to review the outreach and education activities of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Fisheries Management divisions in order to determine if there is any duplication of efforts with other state agencies or if efficiencies can be achieved through restructuring or combining programs. The office shall provide its findings and recommendations in the form of a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

Section 8. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is directed to complete a 5-year "Air Station" conceptual plan, designed to improve agency aircraft operations and maintenance efficiency, and provide its finding and recommendations in a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

Section 9. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is directed to review its current land management activities and provide recommendations for combining duplicative activities with other state agencies or for outsourcing activities in order to gain efficiencies or create cost-saving benefits. The commission shall provide its findings and recommendations in a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

Section 10. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is directed to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the activities of the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), such as, but not limited to, its geographic information system (GIS) technical support, and provide recommendations on any efficiencies or cost-savings benefits that may be gained from outsourcing those activities. The commission shall provide its findings and recommendations in a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2009.

Section 11. Sections 372.107, 372.5714, 372.673, and 372.992, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2008.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2008.