A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public bathing places;
creating s. 514.045, F.S.; providing
requirements for the display of warning and
safety flags on certain public beaches;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 514.045, Florida Statutes, is
created to read:

514.045 Notification and display of warning and safety
flags on public beaches.--

(1) All public bathing places, as defined in s.
514.011(4), at which warning and safety flags are displayed
and lifeguards are on duty, shall provide posted notification
of the meaning of each of the flags at all designated public
access points. The notification must be posted in a
conspicuous location and be clearly legible. The warning and
safety flags must be approximately 3 feet by 2 feet and
conform to a uniform standard of color and numbering provided
in subsections (2) and (3).

(2) Flags not specifically mentioned in this section
must be identified by the entity flying the flag in the posted
notification required by subsection (1). Warning and safety
flags must conform to the following color and pattern criteria
and meanings:

(a) Red - extremely dangerous water conditions such as
rough surf, rip currents, undertow, strong currents, sharks,
other predators, or lightning.

(b) Yellow - exercise caution.

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
(c) Green - conditions suitable for swimming, but not necessarily safe waters.
(d) Blue - dangerous sea life such as man-o-war, jellyfish, sea lice, stingrays, or red tide. Whenever a blue flag is flown, a yellow flag shall also be flown.

(3) In order to accommodate color blind people, each flag must have a large white number in the center of the flag corresponding to the colors as follows:
   (a) Number 1 - Green.
   (b) Number 2 - Yellow.
   (c) Number 3 - Red.
   (d) Number 4 - Blue.

(4) Flags must be replaced when the colors and numbers have deteriorated and cannot be understood by people on the beach.

Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2003.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Provides for uniformity in the display of warning and safety flags on public beaches. Requires the posting of notification of the meaning of each flag.

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