A bill to be entitled
An act relating to placement of uniform warning
and safety flags on public beaches; creating s.
380.276, F.S.; providing for a cooperative
effort among state agencies and local
governments to plan for and assist in the
display of uniform warning and safety flags and
the placement of specified uniform notification
signs; providing that the Department of
Community Affairs shall direct and coordinate a
program for the display and placement of such
flags and signs; providing for the development
of the program; providing program components
and requirements; authorizing the department to
coordinate the implementation of the program
with specified entities; providing for rules;
limiting the liability of participating
governmental entities; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Section 380.276, Florida Statutes, is
created to read:

380.276 Beaches and coastal areas; display of uniform
warning and safety flags on public beaches; placement of
uniform notification signs.--

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a
cooperative effort among state agencies and local governments
be undertaken to plan for and assist in the display of uniform
warning and safety flags, and the placement of uniform
notification signs that provide the meaning of such warning
and safety flags, on the public beaches along the coast of the
state. Because the varying natural conditions of Florida's
public beaches and coastal areas pose significant risks to the
safety of tourists and the general public, it is important to
inform the public of the need to exercise caution.

(2) The Department of Community Affairs, through the
Florida Coastal Management Program, shall direct and
coordinate the uniform warning and safety flag program. The
purpose of the program shall be to encourage the display of
uniform warning and safety flags at all public beaches along
the coast of the state at which warning and safety flags are
displayed and lifeguards are on duty, and to encourage the
placement of uniform notification signs that provide the
meaning of such flags.

(3) The Department of Community Affairs shall develop
a program for the display of uniform warning and safety flags
at all public beaches along the coast of the state at which
warning and safety flags are displayed and lifeguards are on
duty, and for the placement of uniform notification signs that
provide the meaning of the flags displayed. Such a program
shall provide:

(a) For posted notification of the meaning of each of
the warning and safety flags at all designated public access
points.

(b) That uniform notification signs be posted in a
conspicuous location and be clearly legible.

(c) A standard size, shape, color, and definition for
each warning and safety flag.

(d) That flags incorporate a numerical designation to
accommodate persons who are colorblind.

CODING: Words struck are deletions; words underlined are additions.
(e) That flags not specifically defined by the department must be identified by the entity displaying the flags in the posted notification.

(f) Guidelines for the periodic replacement of flags.

(4) The Department of Community Affairs is authorized, within the limits of appropriations available to it for such purposes, to establish and operate a program to encourage the display of uniform warning and safety flags on all public beaches along the coast of the state and to encourage the placement of uniform notification signs that provide the meaning of the flags displayed. The department shall coordinate the implementation of the uniform warning and safety flag program with local governing bodies and the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association.

(5) The Department of Community Affairs may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to administer this section.

(6) The state, state agencies, local governments, and local government agencies may not be held liable for any injury caused by the reasonable placement or location of uniform warning and safety flags or reasonably posted uniform notification signs or the failure to install uniform warning and safety flags or posted uniform notification signs as provided by this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.