

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to anchored vessels; amending s.
 3 327.4109, F.S.; providing a definition; directing the
 4 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to conduct,
 5 contingent on appropriation, a specified study of the
 6 impacts of long-term stored vessels on local
 7 communities and the state and to submit a report to
 8 the Governor and Legislature by a specified date;
 9 providing for expiration of the study; amending s.
 10 328.72, F.S.; revising the distribution of vessel
 11 registration fees to provide grants for derelict
 12 vessel removal; amending s. 376.15, F.S.; authorizing
 13 the commission to use certain funds to remove, or to
 14 pay private contractors to remove, derelict vessels;
 15 amending s. 823.11, F.S.; prohibiting persons from
 16 residing or dwelling on certain derelict vessels until
 17 certain conditions are met; providing an effective
 18 date.

19
 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 22 Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 327.4109,
 23 Florida Statutes, to read:

24 327.4109 Anchoring or mooring prohibited; exceptions;
 25 penalties.—

26 (6) (a) As used in this subsection, the term "long-term
 27 stored vessel" means a vessel on the waters of the state that
 28 has remained anchored outside of a public mooring field for at
 29 least 21 days out of a 60-day period.

30 (b) Contingent upon appropriation by the Legislature, the
 31 commission may conduct, or contract with a private vendor to
 32 conduct, a study of the impacts of long-term stored vessels on
 33 local communities and the state.

34 (c) The study shall:

35 1. Investigate if and to what extent long-term stored
 36 vessels contribute to the number of derelict and abandoned
 37 vessels on the waters of the state.

38 2. Investigate the impacts of long-term stored vessels and
 39 vessels anchored within public mooring fields on the local and
 40 state economies, public safety, and the environment during and
 41 after significant tropical storm and hurricane events.

42 3. Provide recommendations for appropriate management
 43 options for long-term stored vessels to mitigate any identified
 44 negative impacts to local communities and the state.

45 (d) The commission shall submit a report of its findings
 46 and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the
 47 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
 48 January 1, 2025.

49 (e) This subsection expires January 1, 2025.

50 Section 2. Subsection (15) of section 328.72, Florida

51 Statutes, is amended to read:

52 328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges;
 53 surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.-

54 (15) DISTRIBUTION OF FEES.-Except as provided in this
 55 subsection ~~for the first \$2, \$1 of which shall be remitted to~~
 56 ~~the state for deposit into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund~~
 57 ~~created within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and~~
 58 ~~\$1 of which shall be remitted to the state for deposit into the~~
 59 ~~Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to fund a grant program~~
 60 ~~for public launching facilities pursuant to s. 206.606, giving~~
 61 ~~priority consideration to counties with more than 35,000~~
 62 ~~registered vessels, moneys designated for the use of the~~
 63 counties, as specified in subsection (1), shall be distributed
 64 by the tax collector to the board of county commissioners for
 65 use only as provided in this section. Such moneys to be returned
 66 to the counties are for the sole purposes of providing,
 67 maintaining, or operating recreational channel marking and other
 68 uniform waterway markers, public boat ramps, lifts, and hoists,
 69 marine railways, boat piers, docks, mooring buoys, and other
 70 public launching facilities; and removing derelict vessels,
 71 debris that specifically impede boat access, not including the
 72 dredging of channels, and vessels and floating structures deemed
 73 a hazard to public safety and health for failure to comply with
 74 s. 327.53. Counties shall demonstrate through an annual detailed
 75 accounting report of vessel registration revenues that the

76 registration fees were spent as provided in this subsection.
77 This report shall be provided to the Fish and Wildlife
78 Conservation Commission no later than November 1 of each year.
79 If, before January 1 of each calendar year, the accounting
80 report meeting the prescribed criteria has still not been
81 provided to the commission, the tax collector of that county may
82 not distribute the moneys designated for the use of counties, as
83 specified in subsection (1), to the board of county
84 commissioners but shall, for the next calendar year, remit such
85 moneys to the state for deposit into the Marine Resources
86 Conservation Trust Fund. The commission shall return those
87 moneys to the county if the county fully complies with this
88 section within that calendar year. If the county does not fully
89 comply with this section within that calendar year, the moneys
90 shall remain within the Marine Resources Trust Fund and may be
91 appropriated for the purposes specified in this subsection.

92 (a) From the vessel registration fees designated for use
93 by the counties in subsection (1), \$1 shall be remitted to the
94 state for deposit into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund.

95 (b) From the vessel registration fees designated for use
96 by the counties in subsection (1), \$1 shall be remitted to the
97 state for deposit into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust
98 Fund to fund a grant program for public launching facilities
99 pursuant to s. 206.606, giving priority consideration to
100 counties with more than 35,000 registered vessels.

101 (c) From the vessel registration fees designated for use
 102 by the counties in subsection (1), the following amounts shall
 103 be remitted to the state for deposit into the Marine Resources
 104 Conservation Trust Fund to fund derelict vessel removal grants
 105 pursuant to s. 376.15:

- 106 1. Class A-2: \$0.25 for each 12-month period registered.
- 107 2. Class 1: \$2.06 for each 12-month period registered.
- 108 3. Class 2: \$9.26 for each 12-month period registered.
- 109 4. Class 3: \$16.45 for each 12-month period registered.
- 110 5. Class 4: \$20.06 for each 12-month period registered.
- 111 6. Class 5: 25.46 for each 12-month period registered.

112 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
 113 376.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

114 376.15 Derelict vessels; relocation or removal from public
 115 waters.—

116 (3)

117 (d) The commission may establish a program to provide
 118 grants to local governments for the removal of derelict vessels
 119 from the public waters of the state. The program shall be funded
 120 from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund or the Florida
 121 Coastal Protection Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the provisions in
 122 s. 216.181(11), funds available for grants may only be
 123 authorized by appropriations acts of the Legislature. In a given
 124 fiscal year if all funds appropriated pursuant to this paragraph
 125 are not requested by and granted to local governments for the

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126 removal of derelict vessels by the end of the third quarter, the
127 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may use the remainder
128 of the funds to remove, or to pay private contractors to remove,
129 derelict vessels.

130 Section 4. Subsection (6) is added to section 823.11,
131 Florida Statutes, to read:

132 823.11 Derelict vessels; relocation or removal; penalty.—

133 (6) If an owner or responsible party of a derelict vessel
134 has been charged by an officer of the commission or any law
135 enforcement agency or officer specified in s. 327.70 for a
136 violation of subsection (2) or a violation of s. 376.15(2), a
137 person may not reside or dwell on such vessel until the vessel
138 is removed from the waters of the state permanently or returned
139 to the waters of the state in a condition that is no longer
140 derelict.

141 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.