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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to vessel safety flags; amending s. 3 327.391, F.S.; removing the requirement that airboats 4 be equipped with masts or flagpoles bearing certain 5 safety flags; amending s. 327.50, F.S.; prohibiting 6 the operation and anchoring of vessels without masts 7 or flagpoles bearing certain safety flags under 8 specified conditions; providing applicability; 9 providing penalties; providing an effective date. 10 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 12 Section 1. Effective July 1, 2023, subsections (4) and (5) 13 of section 327.391, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as 14 subsections (3) and (4), respectively, and subsection (1) and 15 16 present subsection (3) of that section are amended, to read: Airboats regulated.-17 327.391 18 The exhaust of every internal combustion engine used 19 on any airboat operated on the waters of this state shall be 20 provided with an automotive-style factory muffler, underwater 21 exhaust, or other manufactured device capable of adequately 22 muffling the sound of the exhaust of the engine as described in 23 s. 327.02(31). The use of cutouts or flex pipe as the sole

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source of muffling is prohibited, except as provided in

subsection (3) (4). A person who violates this subsection

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commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable as provided in s. 327.73(1).

(3) An airboat may not operate on the waters of the state unless it is equipped with a mast or flagpole bearing a flag at a height of at least 10 feet above the lowest portion of the vessel. The flag must be square or rectangular, at least 10 inches by 12 inches in size, international orange in color, and displayed so that the visibility of the flag is not obscured in any direction. Any person who violates this subsection commits a noncriminal infraction punishable as provided in s. 327.73(1).

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2023, subsection (4) is added to section 327.50, Florida Statutes, to read:

327.50 Vessel safety regulations; equipment and lighting requirements.—

of this state where visibility is limited by vegetation that extends 18 inches or higher above the current water line and is present within 10 feet on both sides of the vessel unless the vessel is equipped with a mast or flagpole bearing a flag at a height of at least 10 feet above the lowest portion of the vessel. The flag must meet design, minimum size, and color requirements as established by commission rule and be displayed so that the visibility of the flag is not obscured in any direction. This subsection does not apply to a vessel that has a height greater than 10 feet above the water line. A person who

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51	violates this s	ubsection o	commits a	noncriminal	infra	.ction
52	punishable as p	rovided in	s. 327.73	<u>(1).</u>		
53	Section 3.	This act	shall take	e effect Jul	Lv 1,	2022.

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