

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: General Government Appropriations Committee

BILL: PCS/SB 1104

INTRODUCER: General Government Appropriations Committee

SUBJECT: Vessel Registration Fee

DATE: March 26, 2007 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	DeLoach/Toth	DeLoach	GA	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires a surcharge of \$2 for each vessel registration in Florida to provide a dedicated revenue source for the derelict vessel grant program in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Revenue from the surcharge is estimated to be \$2 million annually and is directed to the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund within the commission to support the grant program.

This bill substantially amends sections 328.72(9) and 376.15(2) of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 376.15 (2)(b), F.S., authorizes the commission to establish a grant program to provide financial support to local governments for the removal of derelict vessels from the public waters of the state. The Florida Coastal Protection Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection historically provided a source of revenue, subject to an appropriation, to support the grants. Since Fiscal Year 2002-2003, this revenue source has not been available due to limited funds. The program has been funded inconsistently since that time from various funding sources.

Based on the most recent number of statewide derelict vessel reports received by the commission, there are approximately 850 known abandoned vessels in Florida's waterways. These vessels are a navigational hazard to the boating public as well as an environmental hazard to the state's water resources. The average cost to remove and dispose of a vessel is \$12,000.

According to statistics from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, there are approximately 1,024,375 registered vessels in the state as of December 2006. Annual vessel

registration fees are provided for in s. 328.72, F.S., and range from \$2.85 to \$112.50 based on size and type of craft. These fees have remained unchanged since 1991.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 328.72(9), F.S., to require an additional surcharge of \$2.00 for each vessel registration fee to be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This surcharge will be used to fund the derelict vessel grant program established pursuant to s. 376.15(2), F.S. The commission is authorized to retain up to ten percent of the funds collected to cover the administrative costs of the grant program.

Section 2 amends s. 376.15(2), F.S., to include the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund as an applicable fund source for the derelict vessel grant program.

Section 3 provides that the act will take effect on July 1, 2007.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

This bill will add a surcharge of \$2.00 to every vessel registered in the state of Florida.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The public would incur an additional cost of \$2.00 for each vessel registered in the state.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill will provide an estimated \$2 million revenue source, pending the review of the Revenue Impact Conference, to fund the derelict vessel grant program. Up to ten percent of these revenues may be used for administration of the program. The service charge to general revenue would provide approximately \$146,000.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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