

5A-1

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: December 15, 2015

() Consent

(X) Regular

() Ordinance

() Public Hearing

Department

Submitted By: Legislative Affairs

Submitted For: Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida in support of Senate Bill 746 (Negron) and House Bill 427 (Magar) to increase boater safety.

Summary: Staff recommends that the Board pass a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to pass SB 746 and HB 427 and Governor Scott to sign the legislation into law. The bills seek to increase boater safety by providing an approximate 25% discount on the fees that boaters pay for their annual vessel-registration if they possess either an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or a Personal Locator Beacon that is registered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Countywide (DW)

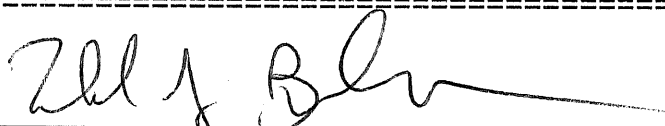
Background and Policy Issues: On July 24, 2015, Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen, both fourteen years old, took a boat out into the Jupiter inlet. After encountering a storm, the teens were lost at sea. While the boat was found two days later, sixty-seven miles off the coast of Daytona Beach, multiple searches were unable to find the teens. The boat was not equipped with a radio beacon which could have allowed searchers to locate it quickly and potentially save the lives of the teens.

Senator Joe Negron and Representative MaryLynn Magar's bills provide boat owners a financial incentive to purchase radio beacons so their vessels can be quickly located in the event of an emergency. This would allow parents to continue using their own discretion as to whether or not their children are ready to operate a boat while also offering them an incentive to take extra safety precautions. According to Negron and Magar, this approach would save boaters approximately \$5 million a year in the reduction of their vessel-registration fees.

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution

Recommended by:



Department Director

11/25/15

Date

Approved by:



County Administrator

Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	* <u> </u>	_____	_____	_____	_____

ADDITIONAL FTE
POSITIONS (Cumulative)

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Agency _____ Org _____ Object _____ Program Code _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact
* There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

C. Department Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Administrator Comments:

Sherry M
OFMB RD ^{MS} ^{AK}
11/25 11/25 11/25/15

J. S. Jacobson 12/14/15
Contract Administrator

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Sherry M
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

Resolution No. 2015 - ____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 746 (NEGRON) AND HOUSE BILL 427 (MAGAR) TO INCREASE BOATER SAFETY

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2015, Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen, both fourteen years of age, left Jupiter Inlet in a 19-foot boat; and

WHEREAS, after encountering a storm the two teens were lost at sea and their boat would not be found until two days later, sixty-seven miles off of Daytona Beach; and

WHEREAS, a U.S. Coast Guard search continued until July 31 and a private search continued until August 8, neither of which located the teens; and

WHEREAS, Florida State Senator Joe Negron has introduced Senate Bill 746 and State Representative MaryLynn Magar has introduced House Bill 427; and

WHEREAS, these two bills would increase boater safety by encouraging boaters to have either an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or a Personal Locator Beacon that is registered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by providing boat owners a reduction on their annual vessel-registration fees if they possess one of these devices; and

WHEREAS, EPIRBs and Personal Locator Beacons can transmit distress calls on a designated emergency frequency to a satellite receiver and are used by rescue personnel to locate the position of the signal; and

WHEREAS, such beacons would significantly enhance the probability of finding and saving boaters lost at sea.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board urges the Florida Legislature to pass SB 746 and HB 427 and Governor Scott to sign the legislation into law.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Mary Lou Berger, Mayor	-	_____
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche, Vice Mayor	-	_____
Commissioner Paulette Burdick	-	_____
Commissioner Shelley Vana	-	_____
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams	-	_____
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	-	_____
Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor	-	_____

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2015.

ATTEST:
CLERK & COMPTROLLER
Sharon R. Bock, Clerk and Comptroller

Palm Beach County, Florida by its
Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

By: _____
Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legal
Sufficiency:

Approved as to Content:

By:  _____
Assistant County Attorney

By:  _____
Assistant County Administrator