

Counties Gain New Authority to Enforce Derelict Vessel and Anchoring Rules

[HB 1103](#) – Rep. Alex Andrade (SB 1682 – Sen. Jay Trumbull)

General Bill Summary

CS/CS/HB 1103 authorizes Florida counties and municipalities to take a larger role in managing vessels that are at risk of becoming derelict, enforcing long-term anchoring requirements, and establishing certain boating restrictions in coordination with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

The bill allows local governments to adopt ordinances enabling their code enforcement officers to identify and address vessels that are at risk of becoming derelict. These officers may investigate vessel conditions, provide notice to owners, and initiate actions such as relocation, removal, storage, or disposal when appropriate. Such determinations are administrative and intended to support nuisance abatement and prevention efforts rather than criminal enforcement.

The legislation also permits counties and cities to administer enforcement of long-term anchoring permit requirements through local ordinances. Code enforcement officers may issue noncriminal citations for violations, subject to documentation and procedural requirements established by FWC.

In addition, the bill authorizes local governments to establish or extend certain boating-restricted areas under specific safety conditions and requires those areas to be clearly marked with uniform waterway markers. Local ordinances created under the bill must be reviewed and approved by FWC before taking effect, and the commission is directed to adopt rules to implement the program.

The bill passed both chambers unanimously and was ordered enrolled on March 5, 2026.

Potential County Impact

CS/CS/HB 1103 expands local governments' authority to address derelict and improperly anchored vessels while maintaining state oversight through FWC. Counties that choose to adopt implementing ordinances may take a more proactive role in identifying and mitigating vessels that pose environmental, navigational, or public safety risks.

Key potential county impacts include:

- **Expanded enforcement authority:** Counties may designate code enforcement officers to identify vessels at risk of becoming derelict and issue noncriminal citations for anchoring violations.
- **Administrative responsibilities:** Counties must comply with FWC requirements for documentation, notice, environmental compliance, and recordkeeping before taking enforcement action.

- Coordination with FWC: Local ordinances must be reviewed and approved by FWC, and enforcement actions must align with rules adopted by the commission.
- Operational considerations: Counties may need training, procedures, and administrative systems to support code enforcement officers performing vessel-related enforcement.
- Fiscal considerations: While state fiscal impacts are expected to be minimal, counties could experience operational costs associated with enforcement, documentation, and vessel removal or storage activities if they choose to implement the program.

Overall, the bill provides counties with additional tools to address abandoned or hazardous vessels but may require local resources to administer the expanded responsibilities.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 327.4107, F.S.
- s. 327.4111, F.S.
- s. 327.73, F.S.
- s. 823.11, F.S.