



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Miscellaneous

J.4.

3/17/2026

Subject:

Legislative Intent and Permission to Advertise an Ordinance, re: the County's Optional Vessel Registration Fee

Fiscal Impact:

No fiscal impact for this action.

Dept/Office:

D3 Commission Office

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board:

- 1) Direct staff to prepare an RFP for a study reviewing the needs of the boating community and existing boating facilities in Brevard County.
- 2) Approve legislative intent and permission to advertise an ordinance imposing the county optional vessel registration fee and direct the County Attorney's Office to draft said ordinance, to be brought back to the Board upon receipt of the boating study.
- 3) Direct that the ordinance be placed on the agenda for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Boards and Marine Advisory Council along with the results of the study for their recommendations.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Brevard County's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, Indian River Lagoon, and St. John's river means that boating is prevalent in our community, both recreationally and commercially. Members of the boating community have contacted my office with concerns about the boating related infrastructure and accessibility of our bodies of water.

Brevard County currently receives funding from Vessel Registrations (\$166,971.73 for FY24/25) for the Brevard Boating Improvement Program. Per F.S.S. 328.72(15) these funds can be used for "providing, maintaining, or operating recreational channel marking and other uniform waterway markers, public boat ramps, lifts, and hoists, marine railways, boat piers, docks, mooring buoys, and other public launching facilities; and removing derelict vessels, debris that specifically impedes boat access, not including the dredging of channels, and vessels and floating structures deemed a hazard to public safety and health..."

Florida State Statute Section 328.66 allows counties to impose an optional registration fee on vessels, sets the fee, and outlines the authorized uses of the revenue. The first \$1 of the fee is remitted to the state for deposit in the Save the Manatee Trust Fund and the rest "shall be expended for the patrol, regulation, and maintenance of the lakes, rivers, and waters and for other boating-related activities...." The optional county fee is in addition to the state vessel registration fee. The additional amount, minus the \$1 for the manatee

trust fund, is as follows:

Vessel Class	Length	County Fee
Class A-1	Less than 12 feet	\$1.75
Class A-2	12 to less than 16 feet	\$7.13
Class 1	16 to less than 26 feet	\$13.38
Class 2	26 to less than 40 feet	\$38.13
Class 3	40 to less than 65 feet	\$62.88
Class 4	65 to less than 110 feet	\$75.38
Class 5	110 or more in length	\$93.88
Dealer Registration		\$11.75

A study related to the condition and capacity of county boating facilities would assist in determining the best use of the funds should the optional vessel registration fee be imposed. If the scope of the study is limited to the authorized uses in F.S.S. 328.72(15) then BBIP funding can be used to pay for the study. If the Board is interested in expanding the scope of the study to include other uses authorized under F.S.S. 328.66 additional funding sources would need to be identified.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:



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Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

March 18, 2026

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner Kim Adkinson, District 3

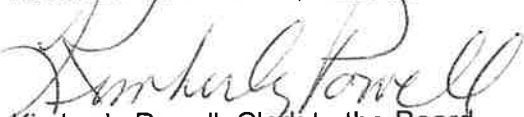
RE: Item J.4., Legislative Intent and Permission to Advertise an Ordinance for the County's Optional Vessel Registration Fee

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on March 17, 2026, authorized staff to research if a boating study is needed, and if not, bring that conclusion back to the Board; directed staff to prepare an Request for Proposal (RFP) for a boating infrastructure study, limited to the authorized uses of the Brevard Boating Improvement Program (BBIP) fund, to be brought back to the Board no later than May 5, 2026, regular meeting for approval; approved legislative intent and permission to advertise for an ordinance imposing the County optional vessel registration fee; directed the County Attorney's Office to draft said ordinance, to be brought back to the Board along with the results of the study and after being heard by the Parks Advisory Board and the Marine Advisory Council; authorized staff to obligate the unused BBIP funds to pay for the study, if applicable; and authorized the County Manager to approve all necessary budget amendments (BCRs).

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

cc: Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 4, and 5
Parks and Recreation
County Manager
County Attorney

5.4

Vessel Registration Fees						
Vessel Class	Vessel Length	# of vessels registered in Brevard in 2025		Current Registration fee without discount	Current Registration fee with discount*	Optional County Fee
		Pleasure	Commercial			
Class A-1	Less than 12 ft.	5,563	36	\$8.75	\$6.20	\$2.75
	Motorized Canoes	507	2			
Class A-2	12 to less than 16 feet	6,734	86	\$19.50	\$14.25	\$8.13
Class 1	16 to less than 26 feet	19,014	455	\$32.00	\$23.65	\$14.38
Class 2	26 to less than 40 feet	2,785	149	\$81.50	\$60.75	\$39.13
Class 3	40 to less than 65 feet	416	19	\$131.00	\$98.20	\$63.88
Class 4	65 to less than 110 feet	13	1	\$156.00	\$116.65	\$76.38
Class 5	110 feet or more	5	0	\$193.00	\$144.40	\$94.88
Dealer Registration		506		\$28.75		\$12.75
						\$9,798.25
						\$890.75
						\$48,626.60
						\$260,495.22
						\$111,873.42
						\$27,352.80
						\$1,055.32
						\$469.40
						\$5,945.50
						\$466,507.26

* F.S.S. 328.72(18) provides for a discounted registration fee for recreational vessels equipped with an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon or when the vessel owner owns a Personal Locator Beacon.

ADD'1