A bill to be entitled

An act relating to anchoring and mooring at seaports; creating s. 311.104, F.S.; authorizing certain seaports to designate no anchoring or mooring zones for certain boats anchored in certain waters for a specified time period for specified purposes; specifying boundary limits for no anchoring or mooring zones; authorizing certain seaports to apply to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish no anchoring or mooring zones; requiring an applicant to hold a specified number of public hearings; requiring the commission to consult with other entities; authorizing the commission to modify no anchoring or mooring zone boundaries; requiring certain seaports to annually review the boundaries of approved no anchoring or mooring zones and submit a revised application under certain circumstances; requiring certain information to be included in seaport security plans and seaport strategic plans; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 311.104, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

311.104 Designation of no anchoring or mooring zones.—

(1) Each seaport listed in s. 311.09(1) may designate no anchoring or mooring zones for uninsured boats anchored for more than 45 days in the waters surrounding the seaport as required in s. 327.4109 for all of the following purposes:

(a) Implementing port security measures.

(b) Ensuring freight and passenger commerce is not impeded.

(c) Promoting the safety and security of residents and visitors of this state.

(d) Maintaining and protecting the flow of legitimate trade and travel at all times.

(2) The boundary of any designated no anchoring or mooring zone may not exceed:

(a) Within the navigational harbor of the seaport, 1,250 feet from a navigation channel that provides entrance to the harbor or from a pier or wharf adjacent to a navigation channel or turning basin. The navigational harbor of the seaport includes navigation channels, turning basins, navigation aids, and breakwaters and jetties.

(b) Beyond the navigational harbor of the seaport, 500 feet from a navigation channel that provides entrance to the harbor.

(3) A seaport listed in s. 311.09(1) may apply, pursuant to chapter 327, to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish a no anchoring or mooring zone.

(4) Before applying to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish a no anchoring or mooring zone, an applicant must hold at least two public hearings displaying the boundaries of the proposed no anchoring or mooring zone.

(5) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall consult with the United States Coast Guard, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Transportation when considering an application for, and the boundaries of, a no anchoring or mooring zone.

(6) When considering an application for a no anchoring or mooring zone, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may modify the proposed boundaries of such no anchoring or mooring zone.

(7) After approval of a no anchoring or mooring zone, the seaport must review the no anchoring or mooring zone boundaries annually, and if necessary, submit a revised application to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with any proposed modifications to the boundaries.

(8) Each seaport must include in its seaport security plan and in its seaport strategic plan, as required under ss. 311.12 and 311.14, respectively, any approved no anchoring or mooring zones that are in effect.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.