**PROPOSAL**

I. **Title:** Bill To Raise The Age Requirement From 14 To 16 To Attain A Boating License

II. **Purpose:** Increasing the age requirement to attain a boating license in the state of Florida will

lower the amount of youth boating incidents and cases of boat disappearances while

meanwhile decrease the cost of damage repair needed by the recklessness of these drivers.

III. **Action to be taken:** Changing the current State of Florida boating license requirements

found in Florida’s Boating Safety Requirements that state: “ A person must be at least 14

years of age to operate a personal watercraft in this state.” The law will be changed from 14

to 16.

IV: **Impact:**

* In the age group 13-18, there were 34 deaths and 415 injuries due to boating accidents (2014);
* Increasing the age will save lives;
* Between 500 to 600 accidents were caused by Operator inattention in 2014;
* Approximately 450 accidents in 2014 were due to inexperience;
* By increasing the age, you have increased the chances of someone more mentally capable than a younger driver handling the boating pressures;
* Miami-Dade County led the state of Florida in boating accidents in 2014;
* One study determined 64% of the reportable boating accidents in Florida during the 2014 calendar year occurred in those 10 Florida counties.

V: **Cost:**

* Limited to changing brochures;
* No other costs associated with Bill because all other information can be found online through the boating registration website;
* The need to inform the public is not needed because only those interested in obtaining a license will look up the information.

VI: **Alignment with state law:** The following bill is a modification of a current state law: “No

one under 14 may operate any personal watercraft (PWC) on Florida State Waters”