



Florida State Bill SB 746

(State Recreational Vessel Fee Reduction for EPIRBs/PLBs Owners)

Beacon Manufacturers Workshop
2016

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Background

- On July 24th, 2015 Perry Cohen and Austin Stephanos, aged 14, were caught in a sudden squall and were lost at sea.
- The boys' boat was found but an exhaustive search never located the boys.
- The boys' parents and friends of the family started the Austin Blu Foundation to raise awareness and promote technologies such as EPRIBS to try and improve boater safety.
- Last September staff of the Florida State Legislature reached out to SARSAT for information on EPIRBS and PLBs in the State.
- Florida State Bill SB 746 subsequently signed into law this March paving the way for a Beacon Incentive Program.



Effects of the Act

- Provides an incentive, in the form of a boat registration discount, to any boater that can show proof of a registered EPIRB or PLB in each registration year.
- Incentive ranges from a 12% to 23% discount on registration fees based on the boat size and category.
- NOT a mandate to carry an emergency beacon.
- NOT applicable to ELTs.

- The act takes effect July 1st 2016.
- Text of the law can be found at <http://laws.flrules.org/2016/126>



Questions

