

SB326 INTRODUCED



1 SB326
2 HGQXF86-1
3 By Senators Elliott, Sessions
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 25-Feb-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is charged with enforcing restrictions on the operation of vessels in the waters of this state.

This bill would authorize ALEA, in consultation with other certain regulatory entities, to adopt various rules regulating the anchoring and rafting of vessels. These rules may include enforcement mechanisms such as fees.

This bill would also provide that a violation of any of these rules is punishable as a boating violation.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to vessels; to authorize the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency to adopt rules regulating anchoring and rafting of vessels; to authorize the agency to adopt mechanisms for enforcing these rules, including fees; and to provide that a violation of these rules is punishable as a



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29 boating violation.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

31 Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the
32 following terms have the following meanings:

33 (1) ALEA. The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.

34 (2) ANCHORING. The temporary securing of a vessel to
35 the bed of a water body solely by resistance of an anchor that
36 is dropped from the vessel which is carried aboard the vessel
37 while underway.

38 (3) EMERGENCY SITUATION. Any situation requiring a
39 vessel to remain anchored to avoid imminent danger to life or
40 property due to mechanical failure of the vessel, severe
41 weather, or other hazard.

42 (4) RAFTING. A group of two or more vessels that are
43 stationary upon a water body and are congregated together,
44 whether anchored, secured to one another, or adrift.

45 (5) VESSEL. Every description of watercraft, barge, or
46 other artificial contrivance capable of being used as a means
47 of transportation on the water.

48 (b) ALEA, in consultation with the Alabama Department
49 of Conservation and Natural Resources, Tennessee Valley
50 Authority, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United
51 States Coast Guard, and any other entity with regulatory
52 authority over a major body of water within the state, shall
53 adopt rules that:

54 (1) Prevent and establish a legal mechanism for the
55 removal of vessels that are long-term, unlawfully, or unsafely
56 anchoring, including vessels occupied by individuals whose



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57 activities create safety, environmental, or nuisance concerns
58 for other individuals on the water or adjacent landowners; and

59 (2) Provide restrictions, including minimum distances,
60 for anchoring and rafting of vessels. These rules may include
61 restrictions specific to certain locations, including public
62 access areas, shorelines adjacent to private residences,
63 marinas, parks, commercial waterfronts, and other locations
64 where vessel placement may interfere with navigation, public
65 safety, property rights, or environmental protections.

66 (c) ALEA may adopt necessary procedures to enforce any
67 rule adopted pursuant to subsection (b), including citations
68 for violating a rule, procedures for impounding, towing,
69 storing, and disposing of vessels violating a rule, and fees,
70 including for towing, storing, and disposing of violating
71 vessels.

72 (d) A violation of any rule adopted pursuant to this
73 section is punishable as a boating violation under Section
74 33-5-35, Code of Alabama 1975.

75 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit
76 or supersede any federal authority, to the limit that it
77 exists, over waters in this state.

78 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
79 1, 2026.