

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1341

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**As Reported By House Committee On:**  
Natural Resources

**Title:** An act relating to watercraft excise tax.

**Brief Description:** Changing watercraft excise tax provisions.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Fuhrman, Buck, Sehlin, Carrell, Romero, Ogden, Regala, Jacobsen and Basich; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Natural Resources: 1/23/96, 1/30/96 [DP2S].

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** The second substitute bill be substituted therefor and the second substitute bill do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Fuhrman, Chairman; Buck, Vice Chairman; Pennington, Vice Chairman; Basich, Ranking Minority Member; Regala, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Beeksma; Elliot; Hatfield; Jacobsen; Keiser; Sheldon; Stevens; B. Thomas; L. Thomas and Thompson.

**Staff:** Linda Byers (786-7129).

**Background:** A watercraft excise tax is imposed on many vessels operating in the state's waters. The excise tax assessment is 0.5 percent of fair market value of the vessel or \$5, whichever is greater. The tax revenues are deposited in the state general fund.

From 1989 through 1995, the Legislature provided that up to \$1 million per year of watercraft excise tax revenues could go to support boating programs. A specific appropriation was necessary in order to direct revenues to boating programs, and the Legislature provided that any funds so directed would be distributed as follows: