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SENATE BILL 5691

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Brandland, Jacobsen, Shin, and Parlette

Read first time 01/29/09. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,  
Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to boating safety; and creating new sections.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
4 reduce boating fatalities and injuries, and increase the general safety  
5 of Washington's waterways by implementing the recommendations of recent  
6 state studies regarding the enhancement of boating safety. These  
7 studies include, improving coordination of state services to  
8 recreational boaters, conducted for the Washington state recreation and  
9 conservation office in 2008; Washington state boaters survey regarding  
10 safety, education, and law enforcement, conducted for the state parks  
11 and recreation commission in 2007; recreational boating safety in  
12 Washington, a report on methods to achieve safer boating practices,  
13 conducted by the state parks and recreation commission in 2003; and  
14 recommendations on child drowning prevention, conducted by the  
15 department of health's child death review state committee in 2004. It  
16 is the intent of the legislature to improve boating safety by focusing  
17 on increased support to marine law enforcement as recommended in the  
18 various studies.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) Within existing funds, the state parks  
2 and recreation commission shall develop a plan to implement the  
3 following recommendations regarding boating safety and marine law  
4 enforcement:

5            (a) Increase state and local law enforcement presence on waterways;

6            (b) Enhance standardized and specialized training for marine law  
7 enforcement regarding boating safety laws and boating accident  
8 investigation;

9            (c) Increase training opportunities for state and local law  
10 enforcement marine program personnel;

11           (d) Increase enforcement of boating laws, including enforcement  
12 against alcohol and drug-related boating;

13           (e) Increase the provision of on-site safety information and  
14 practical education to boaters;

15           (f) Designate the department of fish and wildlife as a boating  
16 safety program;

17           (g) Maximize existing funding sources for the purpose of expanding  
18 law enforcement on-the-water activities including patrols and  
19 enforcement, prevention activities, education activities, and search  
20 and rescue;

21           (h) Enhance state and local law enforcement's capabilities to  
22 conduct safety and equipment checks and courtesy inspections at boat  
23 access sites;

24           (i) Review data sharing or other technology issues that impact law  
25 enforcement ability to enforce boating laws and increase boating  
26 safety.

27           (2) The plan shall include provisions for the funding provided to  
28 the state from the recreational boating safety grant program  
29 administered through the United States coast guard to be allocated on  
30 the following basis: Twenty percent to the state parks and recreation  
31 commission and eighty percent to approved boating safety programs.

32           (3) The plan shall include timelines for implementation of the  
33 recommendations. If any of the recommendations require legislative  
34 action, those recommendations will be noted in the plan and  
35 subsequently reported to the governor and the legislature.

36           (4) The state parks and recreation commission shall provide a copy  
37 of the plan and a report detailing the status of recommendations

1 implementation to the governor and appropriate committees of the  
2 legislature by December 31, 2009.

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