

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6298

AS OF JANUARY 24, 1992

Brief Description: Decriminalizing certain watercraft violations.

SPONSORS: Senators Erwin, Moore and Craswell

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Staff: Ross Antipa (786-7413)

Hearing Dates: February 3, 1992

BACKGROUND:

The penalty for watercraft violations, such as: speeding, inoperable marking lights, defective muffler equipment, lack of life preservers and water ski violations is currently a gross misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

There is concern that a more appropriate penalty for these violations is a class 2 civil penalty with a fine of \$125.

SUMMARY:

Watercraft violations of a less serious nature than driving while intoxicated or failure to stop for an enforcement officer are reduced from a gross misdemeanor to a civil infraction. Most recreational boating violations are classified as class 2 civil infractions with a fine of \$125. Watercraft registration offense fines are reduced to \$50 from \$100 for the first offense, \$125 from \$200 for the second offense, and \$250 from \$400 for the third and future offenses.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: requested January 24, 1992