
SENATE BILL 5691

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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