

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1700

C 124 L 22

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning sustainable funding for the derelict vessel removal account using the vessel watercraft excise tax.

Sponsors: Representatives Paul, Griffey, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Ramel, Leavitt, Wicks, Shewmake, Duerr, Bateman, Bronoske, Peterson, Rule, Simmons and Tharinger; by request of Department of Natural Resources.

House Committee on Appropriations

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

Derelict or abandoned vessels are vessels that have been left by their owners and meet certain conditions, such as sinking or obstructing a waterway. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the state agency with primary responsibility for derelict or abandoned vessels.

The Derelict Vessel Removal Account (Account) is an appropriated account administered by the DNR. The Account is used primarily for reimbursing public agencies for derelict vessel removal costs and for a vessel turn-in program.

The Watercraft Excise Tax (Tax) is an annual tax on the privilege of using a vessel on state waters. The amount of the Tax is 0.5 percent of the fair market value of the vessel or \$5, whichever is greater. The Tax is deposited into the State General Fund.

Summary:

The Watercraft Excise Tax is deposited as follows: 25 percent to the Derelict Vessel Removal Account and 75 percent to the State General Fund.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	94	0
Senate	45	3

Effective: June 9, 2022