

SCS#2 SB 1 -- BOATING SAFETY

SPONSOR: Russell (Luetkemeyer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Tourism and Cultural Affairs by a vote of 18 to 0.

Beginning January 1, 2005, any person born after August 28, 1984, is required to possess a boating safety identification card in order to operate a vessel on the Mississippi River, Missouri River, or lakes of this state. The State Water Patrol will issue the card to persons who: (1) have successfully completed a boating safety course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and certified by the State Water Patrol; (2) have passed an equivalency examination prepared and administered by the State Water Patrol; or (3) hold a valid master's, mate's, or operator's license issued by the United States Coast Guard.

The State Water Patrol may charge a fee for the card that does not substantially exceed the administrative cost of this provision. No individual will be stopped or detained for the purpose of checking to see if the individual holds a boating safety identification card. The substitute also requires that any person convicted of certain boating offenses must enroll and complete a boating safety education course which meets the State Water Patrol's minimum standards, file proof of successful completion of the course with the court, and not operate a vessel until filing proof.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Income to General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2004 \$67,958 in FY 2005, and \$43,047 in FY 2006.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the substitute will provide a training certification course for anyone born after 1984. This training will increase boater safety, especially at the Lake of the Ozarks. The state requires individuals to become licensed car drivers, but anyone over 14 years of age can operate a vessel.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Russell; and Norma Williams.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst