

HB 1962 -- WATERCRAFT (Conway (104))

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness

Currently, the first \$2,000,000 collected annually from boat title and registration fees is deposited into the State General Revenue Fund, with the remainder going to the Water Patrol Division of the State Highway Patrol. This bill changes that requirement to having the first \$1,000,000 collected annually from boat title and registration fees be deposited into the State General Revenue Fund. All fees collected in excess of that must be deposited into the Water Patrol Division Fund to be used exclusively for the Water Patrol Division of the State Highway Patrol.

This bill also requires all water vessels, except those less than 16 feet in length, to have on board at least one personal flotation device approved by the US Coast Guard. Additionally, vessels may not be operated at a speed in excess of slow-no wake speed within 100 feet of a dock, pier, occupied anchored boat, or buoyed restricted area. The operator of any such watercraft in violation of these requirements will be guilty of an infraction and will be fined at most \$25. No court costs will be imposed on a person found in violation of these requirements.

This bill contains an emergency clause, as immediate action is necessary to preserve the safety of the citizens of Missouri on the waters of Missouri. Accordingly, the provisions of this bill will be in full effect upon its passage and approval.