

HCS SB 231 -- WATERCRAFT

SPONSOR: Kehoe (Rhoads)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires every class 2 recreational motorboat operating upon the waters of this state to carry two B1 type fire extinguishers, one B2 fire extinguisher, or a fixed fire extinguishing system and one B1 type fire extinguisher. Currently, it is required to carry one B2 or two B1 type fire extinguishers.

The bill authorizes an exemption for motor fuel used exclusively for watercraft in this state from the motor fuel tax and any state or local sales and use taxes. A tax cannot be imposed or levied on any motor fuel delivered to any marina within this state who sells the fuel solely for use in any watercraft and is not accessible to other motor vehicles.

Currently, a taxpayer must pay the motor fuel tax with the purchase of the fuel and then request a refund of the tax from the Department of Revenue within one year of the purchase. The bill specifies that any motor fuel distributor who delivers motor fuel to a marina in this state for use solely in any watercraft at a location other than a Missouri marina may claim the exemption by filing a refund claim for the fuel tax paid from the Department of Revenue. Currently, the sales and use tax only applies to fuel not subject to the motor fuel tax.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that fixed fire extinguishers are safer and more efficient than smaller fire extinguishers because they have heat sensors that cause the extinguisher to go off and automatically shut down the motor boat. With smaller fire extinguishers, the hood of the motorboat must be lifted, and the fire grows once it hits the oxygen.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kehoe; Missouri Marine Dealers Association; and Lake Ozark Marine Dealers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.