

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
18 July 2015

US CONGRESS

HR 0704 (114th) – RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARDS REFORM ACT OF 2015

Introduced 02/04/15 – Amends the Clean Air Act to eliminate certain requirements under the renewable fuel program, to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from approving the introduction into commerce of gasoline that contains greater than 10-volume-percent ethanol, and for other purposes. (Note: This bill impacts the previous decisions of the EPA's approval of E-15 fuel. (Related Bill – S 0934)

Status: 02/06/15–Assigned Energy & Commerce Committee

Comment:

HR 0980 (114th) – VESSEL INCIDENT DISCHARGE ACT

Introduced 02/13/15 - To provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. (Related Bill – S 0373)

Status: 02/17/15–Assigned Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation Subcommittee

Comment:

HR 1135 (114th) – DEFENDING OUR GREATS LAKE ACT

Introduced 02/26/15 - To provide an immediate measure to control the spread of aquatic nuisance species from the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes basin and to inform long-term measures to prevent the Interbasin transfer of aquatic nuisance species. (Related Bill - S 0589)

Status: 03/23/15–Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans

Comment:

HR 1823 (114th) – ENDING TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES FOR YACHT ACT

Introduced 04/15/15 – To amend Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the mortgage interest deduction with respect to boats only if the boat is used as the principal residence of the taxpayer. (Related Bill - None)

Status: 04/15/15–Assigned to House Ways and Means Committee

Comment

SB 0373 (114th) – VESSEL INCIDENT DISCHARGE ACT

Introduced 02/04/15 - To provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. (Related Bill – S 0373)

Status: 02/26/15–Assigned Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably

Comment:

SB 0589 (114th) – DEFENDING OUR GREATS LAKE ACT

Introduced 02/26/15 - To provide an immediate measure to control the spread of aquatic nuisance species from the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes basin and to inform long-term measures to prevent the Interbasin transfer of aquatic nuisance species. (Related Bill – H.R. 1135)

Status: 02/26/15–Assigned to Environment & Public Work Committee

Comment:

SB 0934 (114th) – PHANTOM FUEL ACT

Introduced 04/14/15 – To amend the renewable fuel program under section 211 (o) of the Clean Air Act to require the cellulosic biofuel requirement to be based on actual production, and for other purposes. (Related Bill – H.R. 0704)

Status: 04/14/15–Assigned to Environment & Public Work Committee

Comment:

LEGISLATURE - ILLINOIS

HB 0227 (99th Session 2015) – BOAT REGISTRATION & SAFETY ACT – WATER USE – NON RESIDENT

Introduced 01/21/15 – Amends the Boat Registration and Safety Act. Provides that persons that are not residents of Illinois do not need a water usage stamp to operate a non-powered watercraft in a paddling event or race. Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall adopt rules governing the classification of events as paddling events or races. Effective immediately

Status: [06/12/15-Sent to the Governor](#)

Comment: Please note that the governor has 60 calendar days to sign or return with a veto – If no action is taken by the governor the bill becomes a law after the 60 days.

HB 1075 (99th Session 2015) – FOX WATERWAY AGENCY ACT – TECHNICAL CHANGE

Introduced 02/02/15 – Make a technical change – This is a Shell Bill – May impact recreational boating depending on amendments made at a later time.

Status: [04/24/15-Re-referred to Rules Committee](#)

Comment:

HB 1681 (99th Session 2015) BOAT REGISTRATION & SAFETY ACT – TECHNICAL CHANGE

Introduced 02/10/15 – Makes a technical change – This is a Shell Bill – May impact recreational boating depending on amendments made at a later time.

Amended as follows on 3/11/15: Exempts a person at least 9 years of age who is competing in a closed-course motorboat competition which is sanctioned by an authorized organization to conduct motorboat competitions.

Status: [04/24/15-Re-referred to Rules Committee](#)

Comment:

HB 3126 (99th Session 2015) – BOAT REGISTRATION & SAFETY ACT – CREATES A SAFE BOATING CERTIFICATE EXEMPTION

Introduced 02/25/15 – Amends the Boat Registration and Safety Act. Provides that a boating safety certificate is not required for a person who is not a resident of this State and is temporarily using the waters of this State for the purpose of participating in a sanctioned and insured national motor boat racing event. Effective immediately

Amended as follows on 04/02/15: Added language which requires the organizer of the event to possess liability insurance with a minimum benefit of \$1,000,000.

Status: [05/22/15-Bill sent to Senate – Rule 2-10 Third Reading Deadline Established as 05/31/15](#)

Comment:

SB 1667 (99th Session 2015) – ILLINOIS VEHICLE CODE ACT – BOAT REGISTRATION & SAFETY ACT – CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

Introduced 02/20/15 - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that every owner of a watercraft for which no certificate of title has been issued shall make application to the Secretary of State for a certificate of title. Provides that the Secretary shall undertake all responsibilities related to the issuance and transfer of certificates of title, including rulemaking authority, for watercraft under the Boat Registration and Safety Act. Amends the Boat Registration and Safety Act. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of the Boat Registration and Safety Act, the Secretary of State shall issue all certificates of title and undertake all responsibilities related to the issuance and transfer of certificates of title, including rulemaking authority, for watercraft under that Act. Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall not issue certificates of title or perform the responsibilities related to issuance or transfer of certificates of title.

Status: [04/24/15-Re-referred to Assignments](#)

Comment:

LEGISLATURE - INDIANA

No legislation identified for tracking – (119th – 2015 Session))

LEGISLATURE - MICHIGAN

HB 4534 (2015 Session) – Tow Flag Required When Towing a Person – Vessel Occupancy Requirement

Introduced 04/29/15 – A bright or brilliant orange or red flag no smaller than 12 inches by 12 inches, mounted on a handle, visible from all directions is displayed at all times that the person is in tow. (Additionally) Vessel is designed by the manufacturer to carry the operator, the observer required under subdivision (A), and the person in tow.

Status: 05/22/15-Bill sent to Senate – Rule 2-10 Third Reading Deadline Established as 05/31/15

Comment:

LEGISLATURE - WISCONSIN

AB 0214 (2015 Session) – OPERATION OF HYDRO-FLIGHT DEVICES – MODIFY RESTRICTION ON OPERATION OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Introduced 05/14/15 – This bill provides that the restrictions on the operation of a personal watercraft at speed exceeding slow-no-wake near a shoreline or another boat and the restrictions against operating a boat within 100 feet of a swimmer do not apply to a person operating a hydro-flight device or to a person operating a personal watercraft that is used to assist in powering the hydro-flight device as a jet powered device, attached to a personal watercraft, that propels a person wearing, holding, or standing on the device into the air by the use of the water forced under pressure through the hose.

Status: 05/14/15-Referred to Tourism Committee

Comment:

AB 0256 (2015 Session) – TOWING A PERSON ON WATER SKIS – REPLACE OBSERVER REQUIREMENT WITH A MIRROR OPTION

Introduced 06/05/15 – Under current law, no person may operate a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane, or similar device unless a competent person, other than the operator, is in the motorboat to observe the progress of the person being towed. This bill provides that this requirement doesn't apply if the motorboat is equipped with a mirror that provides the operator with a wide field of vision to the rear. (Relate Bill SB 0180)

Status: 06/05/15-Referred to Tourism Committee

Comment:

SB 0180 (2015 Session) – TOWING A PERSON ON WATER SKIS – REPLACE OBSERVER REQUIREMENT WITH A MIRROR OPTION

Introduced 05/27/15 – Under current law, no person may operate a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane, or similar device unless a competent person, other than the operator, is in the motorboat to observe the progress of the person being towed. This bill provides that this requirement doesn't apply if the motorboat is equipped with a mirror that provides the operator with a wide field of vision to the rear. (Related Bill AB 0256)

Status: 06/09/15-Passed Senate – Sent to Assembly

Comment:

Submitted by

P/D/C Dennis McNamara, JN
Chairman Legislative Committee