

HCS HB 96 -- BOATING SAFETY

SPONSOR: Crawford (Luetkemeyer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 16 to 3.

This substitute requires any person born after January 1, 1984, to possess a boating safety identification card in order to operate a vessel or personal watercraft on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and Missouri lakes. The State Water Patrol will issue the card. The card will be issued 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 Missouri State Water Patrol; (2) have passed an equivalency examination prepared and administered by the Water Patrol; or (3) hold a valid master's, mate's, or operator's license issued by the United States Coast Guard. The Water Patrol may charge a fee for the card that does not substantially exceed the administrative cost of this provision.

The substitute also requires that any person convicted of certain boating offenses must enroll and complete a boating safety education course which meets the 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: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that boater safety education can be the most effective way of saving lives on the waterways.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Luetkemeyer; State Water Patrol; National Marine Manufacturers Association; Ozark Marine Dealers Association; Norma Williams; Mary Vitor, New Comers/Long Timers, Lake Ozark.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst