

HCS HB 1591 -- WATERCRAFT OPERATION (Wood)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety

Currently, the first \$2 million 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. Beginning July 1, 2019, this bill changes that requirement to having the first \$1 million 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.

The bill specifies that the operator of a watercraft that is in violation of the requirements that the watercraft be equipped with a personal flotation device for each person on board shall be guilty of an infraction and fined not more than \$25. The bill also specifies that the owner of any watercraft in violation of the slow-no wake provisions shall be guilty of an infraction and fined not more than \$25.

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to implement a no wake cove for any class three vessel when the cove's main juncture is less than 800 feet from the main channel of the lake.

The bill exempts certain vessels propelled by outboard jet motors and operating on non-impounded waterways from the passenger seating and guard and rail provisions of Section 306.126, RSMo.