

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2668

## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS.

3031H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 650, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri patrol on wave runners task force.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 650, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 650.575, to read as follows:

**650.575. 1. There is hereby established the "Missouri Patrol on Wave Runners (MO-POWR) Task Force" for the purpose of establishing a law enforcement and first responder personal watercraft patrol within any county with more than forty thousand but fewer than fifty thousand inhabitants and with a county seat with more than two thousand but fewer than six thousand inhabitants, any county with more than twenty-two thousand but fewer than twenty-five thousand inhabitants and with a county seat with more than one hundred but fewer than five hundred inhabitants, and any county with more than nineteen thousand but fewer than twenty-two thousand inhabitants and with a county seat with more than two thousand five hundred but fewer than four thousand inhabitants, in order to promote water and boating safety on lakes having more than one thousand one hundred miles of shoreline. For purposes of this section, "personal watercraft" means a class of vessel that is less than sixteen feet in length, propelled by machinery that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than being operated by a person sitting or standing inside the vessel.**

**2. (1) The task force shall consist of the following voting members:**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 17           **(a) One member of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the**  
18 **senate;**
- 19           **(b) One member of the senate appointed by the minority floor leader of the**  
20 **senate;**
- 21           **(c) One member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the**  
22 **house;**
- 23           **(d) One member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority floor**  
24 **leader of the house; and**
- 25           **(e) A representative from each of the following:**
- 26           **a. The Miller County sheriff's office;**
- 27           **b. The Morgan County sheriff's office;**
- 28           **c. The Camden County sheriff's office;**
- 29           **d. The United States Coast Guard;**
- 30           **e. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary;**
- 31           **f. The Mid-County protection district;**
- 32           **g. The Lake Ozark fire protection district;**
- 33           **h. The Osage Beach fire protection district;**
- 34           **i. The Gravois fire protection district;**
- 35           **j. The Sunrise Beach fire protection district;**
- 36           **k. An organization that provides medical oversight for first responders;**
- 37           **l. Ameren Missouri;**
- 38           **m. A business engaged in personal watercraft sales or manufacturing;**
- 39           **n. A boat race organizer;**
- 40           **o. A fishing tournament organizer; and**
- 41           **p. A bar, restaurant, or resort complex.**
- 42           **(2) The task force shall consist of the following nonvoting members, who shall**  
43 **serve in an advisory capacity:**
- 44           **(a) A representative from the Missouri state highway patrol, water patrol**  
45 **division;**
- 46           **(b) A representative from the department of public safety; and**
- 47           **(c) A member of the general public.**
- 48           **3. The task force shall appoint a chair, who is elected by a majority vote of the**  
49 **members of the task force. The task force shall have an initial meeting before October**  
50 **1, 2024. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation but shall be**  
51 **entitled to necessary and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of the task**  
52 **force.**

53           **4. The task force shall employ law enforcement officers and first responders to**  
54 **actively patrol lakes having more than one thousand one hundred miles of shoreline on**  
55 **personal watercraft. The personal watercraft patrol shall:**

56           **(1) Enforce state laws and regulations;**

57           **(2) Deter unsafe and unlawful activities;**

58           **(3) Provide first responder services;**

59           **(4) Promote water and boating safety; and**

60           **(5) Provide public education directed toward recreational activities on lakes**  
61 **having more than one thousand one hundred miles of shoreline.**

62           **5. The water patrol division of the Missouri state highway patrol shall remain**  
63 **the principal law enforcement entity on lakes having more than one thousand one**  
64 **hundred miles of shoreline and the personal watercraft patrol shall cooperate with the**  
65 **water patrol in all personal watercraft patrol activities conducted on lakes having more**  
66 **than one thousand one hundred miles of shoreline. Members of the personal watercraft**  
67 **patrol who are law enforcement officers shall have the power of arrest and shall carry**  
68 **firearms while serving on the patrol.**

69           **6. The task force shall establish a personal watercraft patrol training program.**  
70 **Each training session shall inform and educate participants on personal watercraft**  
71 **operation and techniques and procedures for patrol on the water. Trainees shall be**  
72 **required to spend time with division of water patrol officers, observing their activities**  
73 **on the water. Upon successful completion of the training program, trainees shall receive**  
74 **a certificate allowing them to participate in personal watercraft patrol activities on lakes**  
75 **having more than one thousand one hundred miles of shoreline.**

76           **7. The task force shall establish membership requirements for participating in**  
77 **the personal watercraft patrol, which shall include completion of the personal**  
78 **watercraft patrol training program established under subsection 6 of this section.**  
79 **Members of the personal watercraft patrol who are law enforcement officers shall be**  
80 **licensed peace officers.**

81           **8. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri Patrol on Wave**  
82 **Runners Task Force Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated to it by the**  
83 **general assembly and any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal,**  
84 **private, or other sources. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In**  
85 **accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve**  
86 **disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys**  
87 **in this fund shall be used solely as provided in this section.**

88           **(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys**  
89 **remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the**  
90 **general revenue fund.**

91           **(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as**  
92 **other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be**  
93 **credited to the fund.**

94           **9. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:**

95           **(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall**  
96 **automatically sunset five years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized**  
97 **by an act of the general assembly;**

98           **(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section**  
99 **shall automatically sunset five years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this**  
100 **section; and**

101           **(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year**  
102 **immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this**  
103 **section is sunset.**

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