



HR0770

LRB098 16079 MGM 51133 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Natural
3 Resources 2012 Recreational Boating Report, there were 101
4 United States Coast Guard (USCG) reportable watercraft
5 accidents during federal fiscal year 2012 in Illinois,
6 resulting in 69 injuries and 19 fatalities; and

7 WHEREAS, In federal fiscal year 2012, Conservation Police
8 Officers inspected 20,015 vessels, and provided assistance to a
9 combination of 2,231 persons and vessels; and

10 WHEREAS, Boating accident reports indicate the majority of
11 accidents occur between June and July, on Saturday or Sunday,
12 between 12 p.m. and 6 p.m.; conditions are usually clear with
13 good visibility, light winds, and calm water; and

14 WHEREAS, Most accidents involve operators between the ages
15 of 20 and 40 with over 100 hours of boating experience but have
16 little or no classroom boating safety instruction; and

17 WHEREAS, In the majority of the 19 fatal accidents in
18 federal fiscal year 2012, the operators had no formal boat
19 safety education; and

20 WHEREAS, Ten of the 19 fatalities involved drug or alcohol

1 impairment; with the leading type of fatal accidents involving
2 falls overboard; and

3 WHEREAS, Current Illinois law provides that persons at
4 least 12 years of age but less than 18 years of age may only
5 operate a motorboat if they have in their possession a valid
6 Boating Education Certificate of Competency issued by the
7 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Safety Education
8 Division or they are accompanied on the motorboat and under
9 direct control of a parent or guardian, or a person at least 18
10 years of age designated by a parent or guardian; and

11 WHEREAS, There is no requirement in Illinois for anyone
12 over the age of 18 to complete a Boating Education Course
13 before operating a motorboat; and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act
15 states that the Department of Natural Resources may cooperate
16 with schools, private clubs, and other organizations in
17 offering boating safety courses throughout the State of
18 Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Natural Resources
20 should increase efforts to have more boaters voluntarily
21 participate in boating safety courses; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we urge the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to work
4 with boat rental businesses, boating clubs, and other
5 organizations to encourage Illinois boaters to participate in
6 boating safety courses; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 delivered to the Director of Natural Resources, for the
9 Illinois Department of Natural Resources.