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S.B. 331
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schuring

Amanda George Goodman, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Designates April as “Powerboat Safety Month” to emphasize the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning that can occur on a powerboat.
- During the month of April, requires the Department of Natural Resources to disseminate information to the public about carbon monoxide poisoning on a powerboat.
- Increases, from \$30,000 to \$60,000, the maximum annual grant amount that the Division of Parks and Watercraft may award to certain entities for boating safety education programs.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Powerboat safety month

The bill designates April as “Powerboat Safety Month” to emphasize the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning that can occur on a powerboat. During the month of April, or more often as determined by the Director of Natural Resources, the Department of Natural Resources must disseminate information to the public about all of the following:

1. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and deadly.
2. Gasoline-powered engines on boats, including onboard generators, produce carbon monoxide, which may poison or kill a person who breathes in too much of it.
3. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are flu-like, so they often go unheeded until it is too late.
4. It is advised that a powerboat owner install and maintain a working carbon monoxide detector on the owner’s boat.
5. A powerboat owner should keep carbon monoxide from accumulating at deadly concentrations and make sure that outlets are never blocked.

6. A powerboat owner should always dock, beach, or anchor at least 20 feet from the nearest boat that is running a generator or engine.
7. Open air boating may reduce, but does not eliminate, the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and death.¹

Boating safety education program grants

The bill increases, from \$30,000 to \$60,000, the maximum annual grant amount that the Division of Parks and Watercraft may award for boating safety education programs to any of the following entities:

1. Political subdivisions;
2. Conservancy districts;
3. State departments; or
4. Nonprofit organizations.

Under continuing law, the Division must award these grants from money specifically appropriated for boating safety education programs by the General Assembly. The Division also may use up to 10% of the money in the existing Waterways Safety Fund for the grants. The entities that are awarded grant money may use the money for personnel salaries and training, materials, supplies, equipment, and related expenses needed to conduct boating education programs. To receive a grant, entities must provide at least 25% of the total program cost and may do so with cash, in-kind services or contributions, or a combination.²

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 05-03-22 |

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¹ R.C. 5.2316.

² R.C. 1547.68.