SLS 24RS-1882 **ORIGINAL**

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATOR FOIL

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Designates May 18 through May 25, 2024, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate May 18-25, 2024, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 created a partnership between the federal government and the states to improve the safety of recreational boating; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the United States Congress by joint resolution approved on June 4, 1958, and enacted 36 U.S.C. 131, as amended, authorizing and requesting the president of the United States to proclaim annually the seven-day period before Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week"; and

WHEREAS, the United States has nearly twelve million registered recreational boats and over three hundred thousand of those boats are on Louisiana waters; and

WHEREAS, while fishing, sailing, or otherwise enjoying Louisiana's beautiful waterways with family or friends, it is essential to follow safe boating practices for everyone's protection; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana encourages all citizens to institute safe boating practices necessary to enjoy Louisiana's waters responsibly by taking the necessary steps to reduce injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard considers operator use of engine cut-off

switches to be important, because when operators of powerboats are ejected or fall overboard, the boat will typically continue to operate, until it runs out of fuel, runs aground, or collides with another boat or object; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of boating incidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in 75 percent of recreational boating fatalities in 2022, and that 85 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, while boats are a marvelous source of recreation, unknowledgeable boat operators are a risk to other boaters when they do not know or obey the navigation rules of the road, drink alcohol, take drugs while operating a boat, or choose not to wear a life jacket; and

WHEREAS, boating knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment; if people are aware of the risk, they are more likely to take the precautionary measures to protect themselves, their friends, family, and others, which is why it is important we spread the message of boating safety education in our state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 18-25, 2024, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jacob K. Wilson.

DIGEST

SCR 31 Original 2024 Regular Session Foil

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