

1 WHEREAS, although boating safety compliance stops are understandably necessary
2 to maintain the safety of the entire boating community, frequent stops of vessels that are
3 continually in compliance with the law diminish the enjoyment of the boating experience
4 and reduce the amount of time that the boater can be on the water enjoying himself; and

5 WHEREAS, an outwardly visible and easily seen indication that a vessel has been
6 checked by agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and found to be in
7 compliance with the boating safety laws could minimize the number of random boating
8 safety compliance stops any one boater must endure and would allow wildlife and fisheries
9 agents to focus their attention on those boaters who do not have a positive safety compliance
10 record; and

11 WHEREAS, it is possible that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries could
12 implement a program whereby vessels are certified by the department to be in compliance
13 with the statutory and regulatory safe boating requirements and to have no violations of
14 statute or regulation on their record for a designated period of time, with the certification
15 being verified by a decal that is to be placed on the outside of the boat hull near the
16 identification number, thus enabling the boater to enjoy his boating activity without intrusion
17 and allowing the wildlife agent to be available to enforce other actions where necessary; and

18 WHEREAS, prior to implementation of such a program, the department would need
19 to evaluate the efficacy and usefulness of such a program and what impact such a program
20 might have on the safety compliance and performance of the boating public in the state and
21 a report on those findings to the legislature would inform the legislature of the need for
22 legislation to enable a certified safe boater program.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to examine the possibility of
25 issuance of a "safe boater" decal to designate vessels that are certified as compliant with the
26 state and federal laws concerning safe boating and submit a report of findings no later than
27 March 1, 2018, to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the
28 Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
30 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 9 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Bishop

Requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to examine the possibility of issuance of a "safe boater" decal to designate vessels that are certified as compliant with the state and federal laws concerning safe boating and submit a report of findings no later than March 1, 2018, to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original resolution:

1. Change the certification from vessel operators to vessel.