

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate May 21-27, 2022, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, this year the United States celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 which 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, Congress by joint resolution approved on June 4, 1958, and enacted 36 U.S.C. 131, as amended, authorizing and requesting the president to proclaim annually the seven-day period before Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week"; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana proudly joins with the federal government's efforts of safe boating by designating May 21-27, 2022, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana encourages all citizens to institute safe boating practices necessary to enjoy Louisiana's waters responsibly, by taking the following necessary steps to reduce injuries and fatalities, even as the number of our citizens spending time out on the water continues to grow at an accelerated pace; and

WHEREAS, safe boating begins with education; new boaters should take a state sponsored safe boating class to learn how they can ensure that everyone returns from the water unharmed; and

WHEREAS, planning also contributes to safe boating, and all boaters should consider getting free vessel safety checks, conducted by the United States Coast Guard, to make sure a boat is ready for navigation on the water; equipping every boat with the proper life jackets for everyone onboard and requiring them to wear the jackets while on the water; never piloting a boat while intoxicated and encouraging passengers to moderate their alcohol consumption as a precaution against accidents; and labeling all boats, kayaks, paddle boards, and life jackets with the name and phone number of the owner to prevent unnecessary false search-and-rescue efforts by the Coast Guard; 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, the Legislature of Louisiana calls upon the entire boating public to take preventive measures and exercise responsible behavior to help keep everyone out of harm's way while engaging in boating activities on Louisiana's famous waterways, lakes, and rivers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the importance of boating safety and designates May 21-27, 2022, as Safe Boating Week in the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. William Hardy in care of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES