

HB 4099 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Transportation Policy

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/12, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits persons from operating motorboats with wake-enhancing devices, and requires persons operating wakeboard boats to do so at slow, no-wake speeds, between river mile 30 and river mile 50 on the Willamette River. Establishes maximum fine of \$2,000 for violations; specifies that third or subsequent offense within a three-year period is punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, a \$5,000 fine, or both. Requires court to order person convicted of third or subsequent offense to not operate boat for two years and to complete a boating safety course.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Duties and responsibilities of Oregon State Marine Board
- Whether there is scientific data connecting boat wakes to shore erosion
- Existing administrative rule restrictions on wakeboarding
- Impacts of powerful motorboats on landowners and other river users
- Other causes of shore erosion
- Wakeboarding as a recreational activity

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces original measure. Creates the Task Force on Motorboat Water Sport and Recreational Activities, consisting of 10 members and staffed by the Oregon State Marine Board. Directs Task Force to study conflicts between motorboat users, shoreline property owners and other river recreators. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2019. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL:

REVENUE:

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Marine Board is the state's regulatory agency for maintaining safe access and use of Oregon's waterways; providing education and enforcement for the boating public; and helping to address environmental stewardship. The Board is funded by user fees paid by motorized boat owners and users.

Wakeboarding is a water sport that involves riding a wakeboard, a small, rectangular board on which the rider stands, typically towed behind a motorboat at speeds of 30 miles per hour or greater. Footholds allow the wakeboarder to perform tricks akin to those seen in snowboarding. The sport gets its name from the practice of using the towing boat's wake to leave the surface of the water to perform aerial tricks. Boats used for wakeboarding typically utilize equipment that raises the height of the tow cable and that increases water displacement to enlarge the boat's wake.