

HB 4099 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Transportation Policy

Action Date: 02/14/18

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Bonham, Evans, McLain, Meek, Noble, Salinas, Vial, Wilson

Exc: 1 - Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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 those who use the river for recreational purposes. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2019. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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
- Expertise of Oregon State University Wave Energy Center

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

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.

Wakeboarding is a water sport that involves riding a wakeboard, a small, rectangular board on which the rider stands, towed behind a motorboat that typically operates at speeds of 30 miles per hour or greater. The sport gets its name from the practice of using the 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.

House Bill 4099-A establishes a Task Force on Motorboat Water Sports and Recreational Activities, consisting of 10 members representing the Legislative Assembly, environmental groups, property owners, river users, boat owners, and the water sports industry. The Task Force is directed to study the conflicts between motorboat users, property owners, and other river users, and to report findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019.