House Bill 2555

Sponsored by Representative MEEK; Representatives NERON, REARDON (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor’s brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Provides that maximum loading weight of motorboat must be less than 4,000 pounds to obtain towed watersports motorboat certificate.

Authorizes State Marine Board to conduct study related to increasing prescribed maximum loading weight.

Provides that person shall carry towed watersports endorsement if engaged in any towed watersports within Newberg Pool Congested Zone.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to motorboats; creating new provisions; amending ORS 830.643 and 830.649; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 830.643 is amended to read:

830.643. (1) A person may obtain a towed watersports endorsement if:

(a) The person is a resident of this state and the person holds a boating safety education card issued under ORS 830.084; or

(b) The person is not a resident of this state and the person holds a current out-of-state boating certificate;

(2) A person may obtain a towed watersports motorboat certificate if the person is the owner of a registered motorboat and:

(a) The person holds a towed watersports endorsement issued under this section;

(b) The motorboat loading weight meets the requirements for maximum loading weight established by the board by rule. The maximum loading weight of the motorboat is less than 4,000 pounds, which is the sum of the factory-specified dry gross weight of the motorboat and the factory-specified maximum factory ballast capacity of the motorboat;

(c) The person provides the board with information regarding the motorboat’s make, model, length, dry gross weight and maximum factory ballast capacity specifications as listed by the manufacturer; and

(d) The person provides any other information required by the board by rule.

(3) A towed watersports endorsement and towed watersports motorboat certificate issued under this section starts on the day the endorsement or certificate is issued and expires on December 31 of the last year in the two-year period.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter in italic and bracketed is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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(4) A person issued a towed watersports endorsement or towed watersports motorboat certificate under this section may renew the endorsement or certificate by:

(a) Paying the towed watersports endorsement renewal fee established under ORS 830.646; and

(b) Completing an application in the form and manner required by the board by rule.

(5) The board shall issue a towed watersports motorboat certificate in the form of a decal. The decal must be affixed to the forward portion of the motorboat, visible above the waterline and in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

(6) The board may appoint agents to issue towed watersports endorsements and towed watersports motorboat certificates.

(7) Agents shall issue towed watersports endorsements and towed watersports motorboat certificates in accordance with procedures prescribed by the board by rule and shall charge and collect the endorsement fees prescribed by law.

(8) The board may authorize an agent other than a board employee to charge a service fee of $2, in addition to the towed watersports endorsement fee, for the issuance service performed by the agent.

(9) The board shall supply the agents with towed watersports endorsements and towed watersports motorboat certificates, if applicable.

SECTION 2. ORS 830.649 is amended to read:

830.649. (1) As used in this section, “Newberg Pool Congested Zone” means the portion of the Willamette River beginning at river mile 30 and ending at river mile 50.

(2) A person shall carry a towed watersports endorsement if the person is:

(a) Engaged in [wake surfing or wakeboarding as defined by the State Marine Board] towed watersports; and

(b) On waters within the Newberg Pool Congested Zone.

(3) The owner of a motorboat shall display a towed watersports motorboat certificate decal if the motorboat is engaged in towed watersports within the Newberg Pool Congested Zone.

(4) The person shall present proof of a towed watersports endorsement and towed watersports motorboat certificate upon request by a peace officer.

SECTION 3. (1) The State Marine Board may conduct a study on increasing the maximum loading weight prescribed in ORS 830.643. If the board undertakes a study, the board shall determine on the basis of objective, peer reviewed scientific research whether increasing the maximum loading weight is likely to:

(a) Have an adverse effect on the waters, beds and banks of this state;

(b) Have an adverse effect on aquatic, nearshore and shoreline habitats, fish and wildlife habitats and salmonid habitats; or

(c) Exceed or violate state or federal turbidity limits.

(2) Before making a determination, the board shall consult with and receive comments from the Department of State Lands, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Quality.

(3) If the board undertakes a study under this section, the board shall report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, on the board’s research, findings, determinations and recommendations, including recommendations for legislative changes, if any.

SECTION 4. (1) The amendments to ORS 830.643 by section 1 of this 2021 Act apply to
towed watersports motorboat certificates issued, renewed or replaced on or after the effective date of this 2021 Act.

(2) The amendments to ORS 830.649 by section 2 of this 2021 Act apply to actions occurring on or after the effective date of this 2021 Act.

SECTION 5. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.