

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate May 17 through 23, 2025, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 created a partnership between state and federal governments to improve the safety of recreational boating; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the United States Congress, by joint resolution approved on June 4, 1958, enacted 36 U.S.C. 131, authorizing and requesting the president of the United States to proclaim annually, the seven-day period before Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week"; and

WHEREAS, the United States has nearly twelve million registered recreational boats with some three hundred thousand of those boats plying Louisiana's waterways; and

WHEREAS, while fishing, cruising, sailing, or otherwise enjoying Louisiana's beautiful inland and coastal waters with family or friends, it is essential that boaters follow safe boating practices for everyone's protection; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana encourages all citizens to institute safe boating practices and to enjoy Louisiana's waters responsibly by taking the necessary steps to reduce injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard considers the use of operator engine cut-off switches to be important in mitigating the risk of serious injury when the operator of a powerboat is ejected or falls overboard, preventing the boat from continuing to operate until it runs out of fuel, runs aground, or collides with another boat or object; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of boating incidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, the most recent U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in seventy-five percent of recreational boating fatalities, and that eighty-seven percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, boats are a marvelous source of recreation, but unknowledgeable and untrained boat operators, who do not follow navigation rules of the road, who drink alcohol or take drugs, or who neglect to wear a life jacket, endanger other boaters and property; and

WHEREAS, boating knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment; and

WHEREAS, boaters who are aware of the risks of their chosen activity are more likely to take precautionary measures to protect themselves, their friends, family, and others, making it vital that we spread the message of boating safety education in our state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 17 through 23, 2025, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES