

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 16 through 23, 2026, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 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, on June 4, 1958, the United States Congress, by joint resolution, approved and enacted 36 U.S.C. 131, authorizing and requesting the president of the United States to annually proclaim 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 and over three hundred thousand of those boats are on Louisiana waters; and

WHEREAS, when 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, 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 engine cut-off switches to be important because without them, if operators are ejected or fall overboard, the boat will typically continue 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, United States Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in seventy-six percent of recreational boating fatalities in 2024, and that eighty-seven percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, while boats are a marvelous source of recreation, unknowledgeable boat operators are a risk to other boaters when they do not obey the navigation rules of the road, drink alcohol or take drugs while operating a boat, or choose not to wear a life jacket; and

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

WHEREAS, boaters who recognize the aforementioned risks are more likely to take precautionary measures to protect themselves, their friends, family, and others, underscoring the importance of promoting boating safety education in our state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of Louisiana does hereby designate May 16 through 23, 2026, as Safe Boating Week in Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE