

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate May 17-24, 2025, 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, the United States Congress by joint resolution approved on June 4, 1958, and enacted 36 U.S.C. 131, as amended, authorized and requested 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 and over three hundred thousand of those boats are located on Louisiana waters; and

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana encourages all citizens to institute safe boating practices necessary 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 to protect operators of powerboats who become ejected or fall overboard since without such a feature 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 caused by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in 76 percent of recreational boating fatalities in 2023, and that 85 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 know or 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 important in reducing human error and improving judgment; if people are aware of the risk, they are more likely to take the precautionary measures to protect themselves, their friends, family, and others, and highlight the importance of spreading the message of boating safety education in our state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 17-24, 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