

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 672

To improve recreational boating safety.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To improve recreational boating safety.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recreational Boating
5 Safety Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASED ENFORCEMENT OF BOATING WHILE**
7 **INTOXICATED LAWS.**

8 Not later than one year after the date of enactment
9 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in coopera-
10 tion with appropriate State and local law enforcement offi-
11 cials, shall establish a program to reduce the number of
12 boating accident fatalities by increasing or concentrating

1 enforcement of boating while intoxicated laws in areas
2 where—

3 (1) many boating accidents have occurred; or

4 (2) previous boating accidents involving the use
5 of alcohol have occurred.

6 **SEC. 3. MANDATORY USE OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DE-**
7 **VICES FOR CHILDREN.**

8 Section 4302 of title 46, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end a new subsection to read
10 as follows:

11 “(e) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations requir-
12 ing an individual on a recreational vessel or a personal
13 watercraft who is 12 years of age or younger to wear a
14 personal flotation device, except in an enclosed cabin on
15 a vessel.”.

16 **SEC. 4. PLAN TO APPROVE FULLY INFLATABLE LIFE**
17 **JACKETS.**

18 Not later than six months after the date of enactment
19 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit
20 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
21 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
22 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
23 plan to approve fully inflatable life jackets for use as per-
24 sonal flotation devices under appropriate conditions.

1 **SEC. 5. PLAN TO IMPROVE VESSEL CASUALTY REPORTING.**

2 Not later than one year after enactment of this Act,
3 the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Com-
4 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
5 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan to in-
7 crease reporting of vessel accidents to appropriate State
8 law enforcement officials.

9 **SEC. 6. INCREASED BOATING CASUALTY INFORMATION.**

10 (a) Not later than six months after the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall
12 revise the regulations issued under section 6102 of title
13 46, United States Code, to provide for a three-level State
14 marine casualty reporting system. The reporting system
15 shall require reporting of comprehensive information for
16 each serious recreational vessel accident, including infor-
17 mation on alcohol use, personal flotation device use, and
18 operator education.

19 (b) Section 6103(a) of title 46, United States Code,
20 is amended by inserting “or 6102” after “6101” each
21 place it appears.

22 **SEC. 7. MANDATORY BOATER EDUCATION FOR SERIOUS**
23 **VIOLATIONS.**

24 (a) Section 2302 of title 46, United States Code, is
25 amended by adding at the end a new subsection to read
26 as follows:

1 “(e) An individual operating a recreational vessel in
2 violation of this section shall complete a boating safety
3 course under terms acceptable to the Secretary.”.

4 (b) Section 4308 of title 46, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by designating the existing text as sub-
7 section (a); and

8 (2) by adding at the end a new subsection to
9 read as follows:

10 “(b) An individual operating a recreational vessel in
11 violation of this section shall complete a boating safety
12 course under terms acceptable to the Secretary.”.

13 **SEC. 8. SAFE BOATING EDUCATION PLAN.**

14 Not later than six months after the date of enactment
15 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit
16 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
17 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
18 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
19 plan to provide mandatory safe boating education and cer-
20 tification to individuals 12 years of age and younger who
21 operate recreational vessels.

○