

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6364

C 140 L 06

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Prohibiting certain activities on motor driven boats and vessels.

Sponsors: Senators Roach, Rasmussen, Kastama, Haugen and Kline.

Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation

House Committee on Appropriations

House Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks

Background: Teak surfing, also known as bodysurfing, is a boating activity in which an individual enters the water and grips the swim platform of a motorized vessel. As the vessel moves through the water at low speeds, it produces a trailing wave just behind the boat. The person holding onto the swim platform can then let go and body surf this trailing wave, which will carry that person along behind the boat.

The United State Coast Guard has stated that because teak surfing takes place so near a boat's motor, teak surfers are exposed to elevated carbon monoxide levels from vessel exhaust. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has found deaths resulting from as little as one to two minutes of teak surfing related carbon monoxide exposure. Teak surfing is also dangerous, according to the Coast Guard, because it occurs so near a boat's propeller and because participants do not wear life jackets while teak surfing.

Recently, jurisdictions, including Oregon and California, have prohibited teak surfing.

Summary: The operation of a motor boat or vessel while an individual is teak surfing, platform dragging, or bodysurfing behind the boat or vessel is prohibited.

The operation of a motor boat or vessel while an individual is occupying or holding onto a swim platform, step, or ladder is also prohibited. This provision does not apply in certain limited circumstances, such as when an individual occupies a swim platform to assist with docking or departing.

The terms teak surfing, platform dragging, and bodysurfing are defined. A violation of these provisions is a natural resources infraction, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100.

Any new or used motor driven boat or vessel sold within the state must display a carbon monoxide warning sticker developed or approved by the Department of Licensing (Department). Additionally, the Department must include an informational brochure about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and vessels, as well as the warning stickers developed by the Department, with vessel registration materials mailed when registrations are due or become due for two years after the effective date of the provision. After two years, such materials may be included upon recommendation by the Director of the Department.

Current statutory language directing the State Parks and Recreation Commission to include the hazards of carbon monoxide in its recreational boating fire prevention educational program is removed.

The act is titled the Jenda Jones and Denise Colbert Safe Boating Act.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	45	0	
House	97	1	(House amended)
Senate	44	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 7, 2006
January 1, 2007 (Sections 2 and 3)