

SB 778 -- WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION FEES

SPONSOR: Ridgeway (Cooper, 155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 16 to 0.

This bill increases the fee for a certificate of number when registering the following vessels:

- (1) Under 16 feet in length from \$10 to \$25;
- (2) 16 feet to 26 feet in length from \$20 to \$55;
- (3) 26 feet to 40 feet in length from \$30 to \$100; and
- (4) 40 feet and longer from \$40 to \$150.

The first \$2 million collected annually for numbering will be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. All fees collected in excess of \$2 million will be deposited into the newly created Missouri State Water Patrol Fund. Moneys in this fund, subject to appropriation, will be used solely for the expenses of the State Water Patrol. Revenue remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium will not revert to the credit of the General Revenue Fund.

When applying for or renewing a vessel's certificate of number from the state or for a vessel documented with the United States Coast Guard, the owner must submit proof that all personal property taxes owed or previously owed on the vessel have been paid or that no taxes were due.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of \$233,925 in FY 2007, \$280,710 in FY 2008, and \$280,710 in FY 2009. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$2,282,438 in FY 2007, \$2,738,925 in FY 2008, \$2,738,925 in FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is identical to House Bill 1302 that provides funding for the State Water Patrol to increase safety on Missouri's waterways.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Ridgeway; Missouri Water Patrol Association; Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitor Bureau; Tri-County Lodging Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; Lake of the Ozarks Marine Dealers Association; and Missouri Canoers and Floaters Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Karla Strobel, Legislative Analyst