

By: Harris

S.B. No. 1746

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to an interim study of recreational boating safety in
3 Texas.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. ADVISORY PANEL; STUDY. (a) The governor,
6 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
7 shall each appoint three members to an advisory panel on
8 recreational boating safety.

9 (b) The panel appointed under Subsection (a) of this section
10 shall conduct a study assessing current conditions and making
11 recommendations regarding:

12 (1) boating safety generally and ways to improve
13 boating safety on lakes and rivers in this state;

14 (2) the effect of boater education on boating safety
15 and the boat rental, boat sales, and tourism industries;

16 (3) the effect of requiring every boat owner to carry
17 liability insurance on boating safety and the boat rental, boat
18 sales, and tourism industries;

19 (4) the effectiveness of law enforcement on lakes and
20 rivers and ways to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement,
21 including possible increases in the number of enforcement officers
22 and state or local responsibility for the increases; and

23 (5) any other issue the advisory panel finds relevant
24 to boating safety in this state.

1 (c) For each area of the study, the panel shall provide an
2 estimate of the costs to boaters and the boating and tourism
3 industries if the panel's recommendations were implemented.

4 (d) One member of the panel appointed by the governor shall
5 serve as the panel's presiding officer.

6 (e) The panel shall convene at the call of the presiding
7 officer.

8 (f) From the contingent expense fund of the senate and the
9 contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally,
10 the members of the panel are entitled to reimbursement for expenses
11 incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Act in accordance
12 with the rules of the senate and house of representatives and the
13 policies of the senate and house committees on administration.

14 (g) Not later than December 31, 2010, the panel shall report
15 the results of the study conducted under this section to the Parks
16 and Wildlife Department, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
17 speaker of the house of representatives, and the members of the
18 committee in each house of the legislature with primary
19 jurisdiction over recreational boating.

20 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
21 1, 2009.