

1-1 By: Howard of Travis (Senate Sponsor - Watson) H.B. No. 555  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2011;  
1-3 April 26, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Transportation and Homeland Security; May 13, 2011, reported  
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 13, 2011, sent  
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to reportable boating accidents and the penalties for  
1-10 certain boating accidents.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 31.105(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
1-13 amended to read as follows:

1-14 (a) The operator of a vessel involved in a collision,  
1-15 accident, or other casualty that results in death or injury to a  
1-16 person or damage to property in excess of an amount set by the  
1-17 commission of not less than \$2,000 [~~\$500~~] shall report to [~~file~~  
1-18 ~~with~~] the department on or before the expiration of 30 days after  
1-19 the incident a full description of the collision, accident, or  
1-20 casualty in accordance with regulations established by the  
1-21 department.

1-22 SECTION 2. Section 31.132, Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
1-23 amended to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 31.132. REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCEMENT  
1-25 OFFICERS. A marine safety enforcement officer shall provide to the  
1-26 department on a form prescribed by the department a report of any  
1-27 incident the officer investigates that involves a boating accident,  
1-28 water fatality, or person who allegedly operates a boat while  
1-29 intoxicated. The officer shall provide the report not later than  
1-30 the 15th day after the date the officer initially became aware of  
1-31 the incident [~~occurred~~].

1-32 SECTION 3. Section 24(g), Water Safety Act (Article 9206,  
1-33 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by Section 1, Chapter 48  
1-34 (H.B. 146), Acts of the 64th Legislature, Regular Session, 1975, is  
1-35 repealed.

1-36 SECTION 4. (a) The Parks and Wildlife Commission shall  
1-37 adopt rules required to implement Section 31.105(a), Parks and  
1-38 Wildlife Code, as amended by this Act, not later than December 1,  
1-39 2011.

1-40 (b) Section 31.105(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, as amended  
1-41 by this Act, applies only to a report for an accident that occurs on  
1-42 or after January 1, 2012. A report for an accident that occurs  
1-43 before January 1, 2012, is governed by the law in effect at the time  
1-44 of the accident, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
1-45 purpose.

1-46 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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