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By:  Buckley H.R. No. 1785

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, National Safe Boating Week is being observed from May 20 to 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Boating, including fishing, sailing, paddling, and waterskiing, is an immensely popular recreational activity, and the U.S. Coast Guard and its federal, state, and local partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Safe Boating Council, approximately 650 people die in boating-related accidents in the United States each year, and 75 percent of those fatalities are caused by drowning; the vast majority of accidents occur because of human error or poor judgment and can be easily prevented through basic safety practices, such as carrying emergency communications equipment, participating in free boat safety checks, remaining sober while navigating, and wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, Statistics have shown that nearly 83 percent of those who drowned in boating mishaps were not wearing a life jacket; although many boaters stow life jackets on board, there is rarely enough time to properly employ one in the event of an accident; in an effort to increase people's willingness to wear this essential piece of safety equipment, modern life jackets have been designed to be smaller, lighter, and more comfortable; and

WHEREAS, Boating accidents happen regardless of one's level of experience, and wearing a life jacket is the most effective way to prevent drowning for veteran and novice boaters alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize May 20 to 26, 2023, as National Safe Boating Week and encourage Texans to practice safe boating habits and to wear life jackets at all times while on the water.