

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 499

Short Title: Boat Registration Fees/AB.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Hoyle.

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Referred to: Finance.

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March 25, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CANOES AND KAYAKS TO BE REGISTERED AND TO INCREASE THE FEES FOR REGISTRATION OF BOATS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 75A-4 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 75A-4. Identification numbers required.**

Every vessel on the waters of this State shall be ~~numbered~~-numbered, except those vessels exempted from numbering under G.S. 75A-7. No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of any vessel on such waters unless the vessel is numbered in accordance with this Chapter, or in accordance with applicable federal law, or in accordance with a federally approved numbering system of another state, and unless

(1) The certificate of number awarded to such vessel is in full force and effect, and

(2) The identifying number set forth in the certificate of number is displayed on each side of the bow of such vessel."

Section 2. G.S. 75A-5(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The owner of each vessel requiring numbering by this State shall file an application for number with the Wildlife Resources Commission on forms approved by it. The application shall be signed by the owner of the vessel, or his agent, and shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~eight dollars (\$8.00)~~-ten dollars (\$10.00) for a one-year period or

1 by a fee of ~~twenty dollars (\$20.00)~~ twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for a three-year period;  
2 provided, however, there shall be no fee charged for vessels owned and operated by  
3 nonprofit rescue squads if they are operated exclusively for rescue purposes, including  
4 rescue training. The applicant shall have the option of selecting a one-year numbering  
5 period or a three-year numbering period. Upon receipt of the application in approved  
6 form, the Commission shall have the same entered upon the records of its office and issue  
7 to the applicant a certificate of number stating the number awarded to the vessel and the  
8 name and address of the owner, and a validation decal indicating the expiration date of  
9 the certificate of number. The owner shall paint on or attach to each side of the bow of  
10 the vessel the identification number in such manner as may be prescribed by rules of the  
11 Commission in order that it may be clearly visible. The number shall be maintained in  
12 legible condition. The validation decal shall be displayed on the starboard bow of the  
13 vessel immediately following the number. The certificate of number shall be pocket size  
14 and shall be available at all times for inspection on the vessel for which issued, whenever  
15 such vessel is in operation. Provided, however, any person charged with failing to so  
16 carry such certificate of number shall not be convicted if he produces in court a certificate  
17 of number theretofore issued to him and valid at the time of his arrest."

18 Section 3. G.S. 75A-5(c) reads as rewritten:

19 "(c) Should the ownership of a vessel change, a new application form with a fee of  
20 ~~eight dollars (\$8.00)~~ ten dollars (\$10.00) for a one-year period or by a fee of ~~twenty dollars~~  
21 ~~(\$20.00)~~ twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for a three-year period shall be filed with the  
22 Wildlife Resources Commission and a new certificate bearing the same number shall be  
23 awarded the new owner in the manner as provided for in an original award of number. In  
24 case a certificate should become lost, a new certificate bearing the same number shall be  
25 issued upon payment of a fee of two dollars (\$2.00). Possession of the certificate shall in  
26 cases involving prosecution for violation of any provision of this Chapter be prima facie  
27 evidence that the person whose name appears therein is the owner of the boat referred to  
28 therein."

29 Section 4. G.S. 75A-3(c) reads as rewritten:

30 "(c) The Boating Account is established within the Wildlife Resources Fund  
31 created under G.S. 143-250. All moneys collected pursuant to the numbering and titling  
32 provisions of this Chapter shall be credited to this Account. Gasoline excise tax revenue  
33 is credited to the Account under G.S. 105-449.126. Revenue in the Account shall be used  
34 by the Wildlife Resources Commission, subject to the Executive Budget Act and the  
35 Personnel Act, for the administration and enforcement of this Chapter; for activities  
36 relating to boating and water safety including education and waterway marking and  
37 improvement; and for boating access area acquisition, development, and maintenance. At  
38 least three dollars from each boat registration fee collected under the numbering  
39 provisions of G.S. 75A-5(c) shall be used for boating access area acquisition,  
40 development, and maintenance."

41 Section 5. G.S. 75A-7(a) reads as rewritten:

42 (a) A vessel shall not be required to be numbered under this Chapter if it is:

- 1           (1) A vessel which is required to be awarded a number pursuant to federal  
2 law or a federally approved numbering system of another state, and for  
3 which a number has been so awarded: Provided, that any such boat shall  
4 not have been within this State for a period in excess of 90 consecutive  
5 days.
- 6           (2) A vessel from a country other than the United States temporarily using  
7 the waters of this State.
- 8           (3) A vessel whose owner is the United States, a state or a subdivision  
9 thereof.
- 10          (4) A ship's lifeboat.
- 11          (5) A vessel which has a valid marine document issued by the Bureau of  
12 Customs of the United States government or any federal agency  
13 successor thereto.
- 14          (6) A sailboat of not more than 14 feet on the load water line (LWL).
- 15          (7) A vessel other than a canoe or a kayak with no means of propulsion  
16 other than drifting or manual paddling, poling, or rowing.

17           Section 5. Section 4 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2000, and applies  
18 to fees collected from each boat registration in effect on or after that date. The remainder  
19 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2000.