

I do not support SB148 – Boating Safety Education Requirement.

Boating activities across the state vary significantly in purpose and scope. In theory, including a reasonable degree of safety for a specific boat outing could depend on an infinite number of factors.

Use of a 10-horsepower engine seems to be a rather arbitrary threshold for invoking the need to be boat safety education certified. For example, individuals have paddled on sea kayaks between Washington state and Alaska, representing a voyage of great distance and high degree of logistical complexity without the use of a 10-horsepower engine. On the other hand, use of substantially higher horsepower is common on short trips of short duration and low complexity like on interior lakes between the road system to remote shore cabins.

No single boating safety course or variety of courses could ever hope to sufficiently cover boating safety in a way that would yield comprehensive safety and value for the dollars and time invested.

This initiative simply represents future administrative staffing needs, future administrative costs, another state program to contain, and a risk, cost, and time burden to those individuals seeking to utilize a boat for their very specific and unique personal need.

Please do not pass SB148.

Sincerely,
Lucas Smith