

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

1992

Source
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Legislative
Resolve No.
91



Relating to the annual federal fee for recreational vessels.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 requires the United States Secretary of Transportation to establish and collect an annual fee for recreational vessels; and

WHEREAS the fee is \$25 for vessels greater than 16 feet to 20 feet in length, \$35 for vessels greater than 20 feet to 27 feet in length, \$50 for vessels greater than 27 feet to 40 feet in length, and \$100 for vessels greater than 40 feet in length; and

WHEREAS the fee will be collected by the United States Coast Guard during federal fiscal years 1991 through 1995; and

WHEREAS the fee applies to recreational vessels over 16 feet long that are operated on all navigable waters of the United States where "the Coast Guard has a presence," broadly defined as "within Coast Guard district boundaries"; and

WHEREAS information about the fee was published in the Federal Register as a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking so all interested parties would have an opportunity to comment on the procedures for implementing and collecting the fees; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the fee is to "require recreational boaters to share in the cost of existing Coast Guard programs, including search and rescue, boating safety, and aids to navigation...."; and

WHEREAS the fee will be deposited in the United States Treasury and, even though it will be attributed to Coast Guard activities, there is no guarantee it will be used for Coast Guard programs; and

WHEREAS the fee is a new general tax on recreational vessels and an attempt by the federal government to raise new revenue; and

WHEREAS the revenue from the fee will not be used to supplement existing programs, but to replace funds that will be diverted to other purposes; and

WHEREAS the federal government already collects a motorboat fuel tax levied on the approximately 6,000,000 licensed boats in the United States, and this tax was increased five cents a gallon as part of the 1990 budget reconciliation process; and

WHEREAS search and rescue, boating safety, and aids to navigation are vital public services that should not be subject to user fees; and

WHEREAS the fee will be an undue burden on recreational vessel owners and will provide them with no direct benefits; and

WHEREAS Representative Robert W. Davis of Michigan introduced H.R. 534 in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senator John B. Breaux of Louisiana introduced S. 843 in the U.S. Senate for the purpose of repealing the annual fee for recreational vessels;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Congress to repeal the annual fee for recreational vessels.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg, Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chair of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable W. J. (Billy) Tauzin, Chair of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and

Navigation of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable William Lehman, Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John B. Breaux, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Robert W. Davis, U.S. Representative; the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.