

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 11 (Senator Astle)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - State Boat Act - Expiration of Temporary Certificate of Boat Number

This bill reduces, from 90 days to 60 days, the amount of time after which temporary certificate of boat numbers expire, consistent with federal regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Generally, vessels must be registered in Maryland if they are equipped with any kind of primary or auxiliary mechanical propulsion and used in Maryland most during a calendar year. Licensed boat dealers may issue one temporary certificate of boat number to a person who buys a vessel from the dealer, if specified requirements are met. Within 30 days of issuing a temporary certificate of boat number, dealers must mail a copy of the document to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A temporary certificate of boat number expires when either (1) a certificate of boat number for the vessel is issued by DNR or (2) 90 days expire from the date the temporary certificate was issued by the dealer.

In accordance with federal boating safety requirements (33 CFR 174.29), a state may issue a temporary certificate of number that is effective for not more than 60 days.

Because temporary certificates of boat number are authorized for up to 90 days in Maryland, State law is inconsistent with federal requirements. DNR advises that while the bill shortens the time boat owners can operate under a temporary certificate, 60 days is an adequate amount of time for dealers and DNR to process the documents.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 14, 2013
mlm/lgc

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