

SB 301 -1, -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/26, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the State Marine Board to study issues related to the safe operation of boats and to submit a report to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2026. The Act sunsets on January 2, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Modifies requirements for obtaining a towed watersports certificate to no longer include:

- the factory-specified maximum factory ballast capacity in the allowable maximum weight of the motorboat; and
- the requirement to provide information on the maximum factory ballast capacity of the motorboat.

Eliminates the requirement that the towed water sports program compile information regarding the maximum factory ballast capacity specification of motorboats that towed watersports motorboat decal was issued.

-3 Replaces measure. Modifies requirements to obtain a towed watersports endorsement to no longer include a maximum loading weight of less than 5,500 pounds and instead requires the weight to meet requirements established in rule by the State Marine Board (OSMB) effective January 2, 2029. Removes exiting study requirement. Requires OSMB to conduct study to determine on the basis of objective, peer-reviewed scientific research the maximum loading weight of a motorboat. Modifies wording of study requirements. Requires OSMB to report to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment no later than September 15, 2028. Repeals study requirement January 2, 2029. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

-4 Replaces measure. Modifies requirements for obtaining a towed watersports certificate to no longer include:

- the factory-specified maximum factory ballast capacity in the allowable maximum weight of the motorboat; and
- the requirement to provide information on the maximum factory ballast capacity of the motorboat.

Eliminates the requirement that the towed water sports program compile information regarding the maximum factory ballast capacity specification of motorboats that towed watersports motorboat decal was issued.

Establishes that a person who violates prohibition of using devices or individuals to increase wake and engage in wake surfing in the Newberg Pool Congested Zone (ORS 830.649 (5) or has one or more prior convictions for violating requirement to carry or display towed watersports endorsement commits a Class A violation.

BACKGROUND:

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The Marine Board was established in 1959 and its stated mission is to serve Oregon's recreational boating public through education, enforcement, access and environmental stewardship for a safe and enjoyable experience. One of the Marine Board's programs is boating safety which facilitates safety, education, and stewardship for Oregon boaters and outfitter guides.