

Department of Planning and Budget

2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB528

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Newman

3. Committee Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title Mandatory boating safety education; penalty.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Makes it a Class 4 misdemeanor for anyone to operate a motorboat on the waters of Smith Mountain Lake without having successfully completed an approved boating safety education course. The education requirement is phased in so that by July 1, 2015, all motorboat operators will have been required to complete and pass the course or an equivalency exam. The Board is directed to develop and administer the mandatory boating safety education program through the promulgation of regulations, taking into account comments from the public. There are a number of ways a person can comply with the law other than successfully completing an approved course, such as passing an equivalency examination, possessing a valid license issued to maritime personnel, etc. The bill also repeals the current law that requires at least one game warden to patrol Smith Mountain Lake during the boating season.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Preliminary, see item 8, below.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: According to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, any fiscal impact the legislation may have on the agency is expected to be minimal. To comply with the provisions of the bill the agency will likely need to maintain a database of those individuals who have completed the boating safety training or have otherwise satisfied the requirement, and establish regulations.

Game and Inland Fisheries, the Coast Guard auxiliary and private vendors currently offer approved courses, many of which are available on-line.

The penalty for a Class 4 misdemeanor is a fine of not more than \$250. Any revenue will be deposited to the state's Literary Fund.

Any impact the bill may have on the court system is expected to be minimal.

The bill repeals the current law that requires at least one game warden to patrol Smith Mountain Lake during the boating season. The 2005 General Assembly enacted this

provision. The repeal of this requirement will not have a fiscal impact to the agency, as funding was not provided for its enactment during the 2005 Session.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Court system and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: This bill is similar to HB872.

Date: 02/13/06/tmw

Document: G:\2006 Session\Fiscal Impact Statements\Sb528s1.Doc Toni Walker

cc: Secretary of Natural Resources