

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 976

PRINTER NO. 1220

AMOUNT

Minimal Fiscal Impact

FUND

Boat Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

November 9, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator L. Williams

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 976 amends Title 30 (Fish) by updating the boating education requirements on electric boat motors.

Currently, personal watercrafts are defined in commission regulations as boats less than 16 feet in length that use an internal combustion motor powering a water jet pump as their primary source of propulsion, designed to be operated by a person sitting, kneeling or standing on the boat rather than the conventional manner of boat operation.

Senate Bill 976 allows the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (commission) to strengthen requirements for education of people using electric boat motors in the Commonwealth. This legislation is recommended by the commission to modernize its requirements around boating safety requirements and makes Pennsylvania regulation consistent with U.S. Coast Guard regulations.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Boater safety education certificates cost \$10.00 and are good for a lifetime. Requiring additional operators of vessels to be subject to boating safety education requirements will result in additional fee revenue for the Boat Fund. The amount of additional revenue generated will be dependent on the number of new safety education certificates that are issued.

Any additional education and enforcement costs are expected to be minimal and can be accommodated within existing resources of the Fish and Boat Commission.