



1st Substitute SB200 Watercraft Amendments

Senator McCay, Representative Snider

Background

This bill does two things:

1. Amends uniform statewide fees and taxes for boats to be used for the Utah Boating Grant - **this will be revenue-neutral to the boater**. The Utah Boating Grant was created in 2023 (4th Substitute H.B. 299 Boating Amendments by Rep. Snider).

Allowable uses of the Utah Boating Grant:

- Eligible entities: a water conservancy district; a state agency; a county; or a municipality.
- Money may be used for:
 - construction, repair, and replacement of a publicly owned boating facility, including a boat ramp, courtesy dock, or parking lot;
 - resource protection of waterway shorelines to prevent or minimize erosion created by vessel wave action;
 - drought access mitigation;
 - alternative access development for non-motorized vessels to decrease conflicts, congestion, and safety concerns on existing motorboat access ramps;
 - search and rescue equipment; and
 - administrative costs for administering a grant under 73-18-22.3.

Why: The current law improperly divides the watercraft age-based and length-based fees. The changes in SB200 ensure Utah is compliant with its system of laws and rules and remains compliant with federal law governing watercraft registration.

2. Changes definitions:

- Edits “Personal Watercraft” to include other propelled machinery as well as a water jet pump (eFoils and motorized surfboards)
- Adds “Water jet device” is a hydro-powered apparatus that an individual rides above the water (JetLev)

Why: This is to keep up with the boating industry and product innovations. We are seeing more of these watercraft on Utah’s waters. This will help Utah follow recommendations from the U.S. Coast Guard.

This bill would be effective Jan 1, 2026, per DMV request.

DIVISIONS



OFFICES



eFoil example



JetLev example

