

**BOATING AMENDMENTS**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble**

House Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies the Motor Vehicles Code and the State Boating Act by amending provisions relating to vessels and outboard motors.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ provides definitions;
  - ▶ includes vessels and outboard motors in the motor vehicle provisions that regulate abandoned vehicles;
  - ▶ grants the Board of Parks and Recreation rulemaking authority to make rules establishing regulations for anchored, beached, moored, and abandoned vessels;
  - ▶ repeals the requirement that a motorboat registration that has been revoked may not be renewed for one year and specifies the requirements for a motorboat registration to be renewed after a revocation;
  - ▶ provides that a court shall dismiss a fine for a violation under this chapter if:
    - the violation was an infraction or a class B or class C misdemeanor; and
    - the person provides evidence to the court that the person has completed a boating education course approved by the division within a certain time frame;
- and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**



28 None

29 **Other Special Clauses:**

30 None

31 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32 AMENDS:

33 **41-1a-1009**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1999, Chapter 217

34 **41-6a-1408**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 2

35 **73-18-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 94

36 **73-18-4**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 183

37 **73-18-13.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 382

38 **73-18-13.6**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1997, Chapter 348

39 **73-18-15.2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 183

40 **73-18c-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2006, Chapter 211



42 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

43 Section 1. Section **41-1a-1009** is amended to read:

44 **41-1a-1009. Abandoned and inoperable vehicles, vessels, and outboard motors --**  
45 **Determination by commission -- Disposal of vehicles.**

46 (1) A vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is abandoned and inoperable when:

47 (a) the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor has been inspected by an authorized  
48 investigator or agent appointed by the commission; and

49 (b) the authorized investigator or agent has made a written determination that the  
50 vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor cannot be rebuilt or reconstructed in a manner that allows its  
51 use as designed by the manufacturer or is a derelict vessel as defined in Section 73-18-2.

52 (2) (a) Before issuing a written determination under Subsection (1), a signed statement  
53 is required from the purchaser of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor for salvage, identifying  
54 the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor by identification number and certifying that the  
55 inoperable vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor will not be rebuilt, reconstructed, or in any  
56 manner allowed to operate as designed by the manufacturer.

57 (b) The operator of the junk or salvage yard disposing of an inoperable vehicle, vessel,  
58 or outboard motor is required to keep copies of the signed statements and other written records

59 required by the commission.

60 (3) Upon a determination that a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is inoperable and  
61 cannot be rebuilt or reconstructed, the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor may be converted to  
62 scrap or otherwise disposed of without necessity of compliance with the requirements of  
63 Sections 41-1a-1010 and 41-1a-1011.

64 Section 2. Section **41-6a-1408** is amended to read:

65 **41-6a-1408. Abandoned vehicles -- Removal by peace officer -- Report -- Vehicle**  
66 **identification.**

67 (1) As used in this section, "abandoned vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor" means a  
68 vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that is left unattended:

69 (a) on a highway or on or in the waters of the state for a period in excess of 48 hours;  
70 or

71 (b) on public or private property for a period in excess of seven days without express or  
72 implied consent of the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the property.

73 (2) A person may not abandon a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor on a highway or on  
74 or in the waters of the state.

75 (3) A person may not abandon a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor on public or private  
76 property without the express or implied consent of the owner or person in lawful possession or  
77 control of the property.

78 (4) A peace officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that a vehicle, vessel, or  
79 outboard motor has been abandoned may remove the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor or  
80 cause it to be removed in accordance with Section 41-6a-1406 or 73-18-20.1.

81 (5) If the motor number, manufacturer's number or identification mark of the  
82 abandoned vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor has been defaced, altered or obliterated, the  
83 vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor may not be released or sold until:

84 (a) the original motor number, manufacturer's number or identification mark has been  
85 replaced; or

86 (b) a new number assigned by the Motor Vehicle Division has been stamped on the  
87 vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor.

88 Section 3. Section **73-18-2** is amended to read:

89 **73-18-2. Definitions.**

90 As used in this chapter:

91 (1) "Anchored" means a vessel that is temporarily attached to the bed or shoreline of a  
92 waterbody by any method and the hull of the vessel is not touching the bed or shoreline.

93 (2) "Beached" means that a vessel's hull is resting on the bed or shoreline of a  
94 waterbody.

95 [~~1~~] (3) "Board" means the Board of Parks and Recreation.

96 [~~2~~] (4) "Boat livery" means a person that holds a vessel for renting or leasing.

97 [~~3~~] (5) "Carrying passengers for hire" means to transport persons on vessels or to lead  
98 persons on vessels for consideration.

99 [~~4~~] (6) "Consideration" means something of value given or done in exchange for  
100 something given or done by another.

101 [~~5~~] (7) "Dealer" means any person who is licensed by the appropriate authority to  
102 engage in and who is engaged in the business of buying and selling vessels or of manufacturing  
103 them for sale.

104 (8) "Derelict vessel":

105 (a) means a vessel that is left, stored, or abandoned upon the waters of this state in a  
106 wrecked, junked, or substantially dismantled condition; and

107 (b) includes:

108 (i) a vessel left at a Utah port or marina without consent of the agency or other entity  
109 administering the port or marine area; and

110 (ii) a vessel left docked or grounded upon a property without the property owner's  
111 consent.

112 [~~6~~] (9) "Division" means the Division of Parks and Recreation.

113 (10) "Moored" means long term, on the water vessel storage in an area designated and  
114 properly marked by the division or other applicable managing agency.

115 [~~7~~] (11) "Motorboat" means any vessel propelled by machinery, whether or not the  
116 machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

117 [~~8~~] (12) "Operate" means to navigate, control, or otherwise use a vessel.

118 [~~9~~] (13) "Operator" means the person who is in control of a vessel while it is in use.

119 [~~10~~] (14) "Outfitting company" means any person who, for consideration:

120 (a) provides equipment to transport persons on all waters of this state; and

121 (b) supervises a person who:

122 (i) operates a vessel to transport passengers; or

123 (ii) leads a person on a vessel.

124 [~~(11)~~] (15) (a) "Owner" means a person, other than a lien holder, holding a proprietary  
125 interest in or the title to a vessel.

126 (b) "Owner" includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel subject to an  
127 interest by another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment or  
128 performance of an obligation.

129 (c) "Owner" does not include a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

130 [~~(12)~~] (16) "Personal watercraft" means a motorboat that is:

131 (a) less than 16 feet in length;

132 (b) propelled by a water jet pump; and

133 (c) designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel,  
134 rather than sitting or standing inside the vessel.

135 [~~(13)~~] (17) "Sailboat" means any vessel having one or more sails and propelled by  
136 wind.

137 [~~(14)~~] (18) "Vessel" means every type of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water,  
138 used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

139 [~~(15)~~] (19) "Wakeless speed" means an operating speed at which the vessel does not  
140 create or make a wake or white water trailing the vessel. This speed is not in excess of five  
141 miles per hour.

142 [~~(16)~~] (20) "Waters of this state" means any waters within the territorial limits of this  
143 state.

144 Section 4. Section **73-18-4** is amended to read:

145 **73-18-4. Board may promulgate rules and set fees.**

146 (1) [~~The~~] In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking  
147 Act, the board [may] shall promulgate rules:

148 (a) creating a uniform waterway marking system which shall be obeyed by all vessel  
149 operators;

150 (b) regulating the placement of waterway markers and other permanent or anchored  
151 objects on the waters of this state;

152 (c) zoning certain waters of this state for the purpose of prohibiting the operation of  
153 vessels or motors for safety and health purposes only; [~~and~~]

154 (d) regulating vessel operators who carry passengers for hire, boat liveries, and  
155 outfitting companies; and

156 (e) regulating anchored, beached, moored, or abandoned vessels to minimize health,  
157 safety, and environmental concerns.

158 (2) (a) The board may set fees in accordance with Section 63J-1-504 for:

159 (i) licensing vessel operators who carry passengers for hire; and

160 (ii) registering:

161 (A) outfitting companies; and

162 (B) boat liveries.

163 (b) The license and registration fees imposed pursuant to Subsection (2)(a) shall be  
164 deposited into the Boating Account created in Section 73-18-22.

165 Section 5. Section **73-18-13.5** is amended to read:

166 **73-18-13.5. Motorboat accidents -- Investigation and report of operator security**  
167 **-- Agency action if no security -- Surrender of registration materials.**

168 (1) Upon request of a peace officer investigating an accident involving a motorboat as  
169 defined in Section 73-18c-102, the operator of the motorboat shall provide evidence of the  
170 owner's or operator's security required under Section 73-18c-301.

171 (2) The peace officer shall record on a form approved by the division:

172 (a) the information provided by the operator;

173 (b) whether the operator provided insufficient or no information; and

174 (c) whether the peace officer finds reasonable cause to believe that any information  
175 given is not correct.

176 (3) The peace officer shall deposit all completed forms with the peace officer's agency,  
177 which shall forward the forms to the division no later than 10 days after receipt.

178 (4) (a) The division shall revoke the registration of a motorboat as defined in Section  
179 73-18c-102 involved in an accident unless the owner or operator can demonstrate to the  
180 division compliance with the owner's or operator's security requirement of Section 73-18c-301  
181 at the time of the accident.

182 (b) Any registration revoked [~~may not be renewed for a period of one year following~~]

183 ~~the date of revocation]~~ shall be renewed in accordance with Section 73-18-7.

184 (5) A person may appeal a revocation issued under Subsection (4) in accordance with  
185 procedures established by the board by rule that are consistent with Title 63G, Chapter 4,  
186 Administrative Procedures Act.

187 (6) (a) Any person whose registration is revoked under Subsection (4) shall return the  
188 registration card and decals for the motorboat to the division.

189 (b) If the person fails to return the registration materials as required, they shall be  
190 confiscated under Section 73-18-13.6.

191 (7) The board may make rules for the enforcement of this section.

192 (8) In this section, "evidence of owner's or operator's security" includes any one of the  
193 following:

194 (a) the operator's:

195 (i) insurance policy;

196 (ii) binder notice;

197 (iii) renewal notice; or

198 (iv) card issued by an insurance company as evidence of insurance;

199 (b) a copy of a surety bond, certified by the surety, which conforms to Section  
200 73-18c-102;

201 (c) a certificate of the state treasurer issued under Section 73-18c-305; or

202 (d) a certificate of self-funded coverage issued under Section 73-18c-306.

203 Section 6. Section **73-18-13.6** is amended to read:

204 **73-18-13.6. Grounds for confiscation of registration materials by state --**

205 **Additional fee for reinstatement.**

206 (1) (a) The division, any peace officer acting in an official capacity, or a person  
207 authorized under Subsection (2) may take possession of any registration card or decal issued by  
208 the state:

209 (i) upon revocation of it;

210 (ii) that is fictitious;

211 (iii) that has been unlawfully or erroneously issued; or

212 (iv) that is unlawfully or erroneously displayed.

213 (b) A receipt shall be issued that describes each confiscated item.

214 (2) The division may enter into contractual agreements with constables or other law  
215 enforcement agencies to facilitate confiscation of items listed in Subsection (1) if a person fails  
216 or refuses to surrender any of those documents to the division upon demand.

217 [~~(3)~~] ~~The division shall assess against a person making an application to renew a~~  
218 ~~registration, a fee, which shall be paid before the person's registration is renewed, to cover any~~  
219 ~~costs of confiscating that person's registration materials.]~~

220 (3) The division shall renew a registration that has been revoked under this section in  
221 accordance with the provisions of Section 73-18-7.

222 Section 7. Section **73-18-15.2** is amended to read:

223 **73-18-15.2. Minimum age of operators -- Boating safety course for youth to**  
224 **operate personal watercraft.**

225 (1) As used in this section, "direct supervision" means oversight at a distance within  
226 which visual contact is maintained.

227 [~~(1)~~] (2) (a) A person under 16 years of age may not operate a motorboat on the waters  
228 of this state unless the person is under the on-board and direct supervision of a person who is at  
229 least 18 years of age.

230 (b) A person under 16 years of age may operate a sailboat, if the person is under the  
231 direct supervision of a person who is at least 18 years of age.

232 [~~(2)~~] (3) A person who is at least 12 years of age or older but under 16 years of age  
233 may operate a personal watercraft provided he:

- 234 (a) is under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 18 years of age;
- 235 (b) completes a boating safety course approved by the division; and
- 236 (c) has in his possession a boating safety certificate issued by the boating safety course  
237 provider.

238 [~~(3)~~] (4) A person who is at least 16 years of age but under 18 years of age may operate  
239 a personal watercraft, if the person:

- 240 (a) completes a boating safety course approved by the division; and
- 241 (b) has in his possession a boating safety certificate issued by the boating safety course  
242 provider.

243 [~~(4)~~] (5) A person required to attend a boating safety course under Subsection [~~(3)~~]  
244 (4)(a) need not be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian while completing a boating safety



245 course.

246 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) A person may not give permission to another person to operate a vessel in  
247 violation of this section.

248 ~~[(6) As used in this section, "direct supervision" means oversight at a distance within  
249 which visual contact is maintained.]~~

250 (7) (a) A court shall dismiss a fine for a violation under this chapter or under rules  
251 promulgated under this chapter if:

252 (i) the violation was an infraction or a class B or class C misdemeanor; and

253 (ii) the person provides evidence to the court that the person has completed a boating  
254 education course approved by the division within 60 days of the charges being filed.

255 (b) A boating education course taken prior to the date of the citation described in  
256 Subsection (7)(a) does not count towards the fine dismissal under Subsection (7)(a).

257 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) (a) The division may collect fees set by the board in accordance with Section  
258 63J-1-504 from each person who takes the division's boating safety course to help defray the  
259 cost of the boating safety course.

260 (b) Money collected from the fees collected under Subsection ~~[(7)]~~ (8)(a) shall be  
261 deposited in the Boating Account.

262 Section 8. Section **73-18c-304** is amended to read:

263 **73-18c-304. Evidence of owner's or operator's security to be carried when**  
264 **operating motorboat -- Defense -- Penalties.**

265 (1) (a) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(a)(ii), a person operating a motorboat  
266 shall:

267 (A) have in the person's immediate possession evidence of owner's or operator's  
268 security for the motorboat the person is operating; and

269 (B) display it upon demand of a peace officer.

270 (ii) A person operating a government-owned or government-leased motorboat is  
271 exempt from the requirements of Subsection (1)(a)(i).

272 (b) Evidence of owner's or operator's security includes any one of the following:

273 (i) the operator's:

274 (A) insurance policy;

275 (B) binder notice;

276 (C) renewal notice; or  
277 (D) card issued by an insurance company as evidence of insurance;  
278 (ii) a copy of a surety bond, certified by the surety, which conforms to Section  
279 73-18c-102;  
280 (iii) a certificate of the state treasurer issued under Section 73-18c-305; or  
281 (iv) a certificate of self-funded coverage issued under Section 73-18c-306.  
282 (2) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section that the person had  
283 owner's or operator's security in effect for the motorboat the person was operating at the time of  
284 the person's citation or arrest.  
285 (3) (a) A letter from an insurance producer or company verifying that the person had  
286 the required liability insurance coverage on the date specified is considered proof of owner's or  
287 operator's security for purposes of Subsection (2).  
288 (b) The court considering a citation issued under this section shall allow the letter  
289 under Subsection (3)(a) and a copy of the citation to be faxed or mailed to the clerk of the court  
290 to satisfy Subsection (2).  
291 (4) A violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.  
292 (5) If a person is convicted of a violation of this section and if the person is the owner  
293 of a motorboat, the court shall:  
294 (a) require the person to surrender the person's registration materials to the court; and  
295 (b) forward the registration materials, together with a copy of the conviction, to the  
296 division.  
297 (6) (a) Upon receiving notification from a court of a conviction for a violation of this  
298 section, the division shall revoke the person's motorboat registration.  
299 (b) Any registration revoked [~~may not be renewed for a period of one year following~~  
300 ~~the date of revocation~~] shall be renewed in accordance with Section 73-18-7.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-27-11 9:40 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

# FISCAL NOTE

S.B. 136

SHORT TITLE: **Boating Amendments**

SPONSOR: **Bramble, C.**

2011 GENERAL SESSION, STATE OF UTAH

## STATE GOVERNMENT (UCA 36-12-13(2)(b))

Enactment of this bill likely will not materially impact the state budget.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCA 36-12-13(2)(c))

Enactment of this bill likely will reduce the amount of revenue generated by justice courts due to the provision for the court to dismiss a fine. We estimate that 500 individuals would take advantage of this provision, which would result in reduction of \$37,500 for the local courts in the State.

## DIRECT EXPENDITURES BY UTAH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES (UCA 36-12-13(2)(d))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable expenditures by Utah residents or businesses.