

**BOAT FEES AMENDMENTS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Steve Waldrip**

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill requires resident and nonresident vessel owners to pay an aquatic invasive species mitigation fee before operating a vessel on waters in Utah.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ creates the aquatic invasive species mitigation fee, requiring resident and nonresident owners of certain vessels to pay a fee in order to operate a boat on waters in Utah;
- ▶ requires owners of certain vessels to complete an education course;
- ▶ requires the Division of Wildlife Resources to study the feasibility of a program for automated monitoring and record keeping of the decontamination or entry of vessels into the waters of this state;
- ▶ requires the Division of Wildlife Resources to report on the study and implement a pilot program;
- ▶ creates the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Account;
- ▶ grants rulemaking authority to the Wildlife Board;
- ▶ requires a person to remove all plugs and similar devices and to drain water systems on a conveyance before transporting the conveyance on a highway in the state;
- ▶ permits the division to temporarily stop, detain, and inspect a conveyance that the division reasonably believes has not complied with the draining requirements; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

29 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

30       None

31 **Other Special Clauses:**

32       This bill provides a special effective date.

33 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

34 AMENDS:

35       **23-27-102**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 284

36       **23-27-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 274

37       **73-18-22**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 36

38       **73-18-26**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 36

39 ENACTS:

40       **23-27-304**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

41       **23-27-305**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

42       **23-27-306**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

45       Section 1. Section **23-27-102** is amended to read:

46       **23-27-102. Definitions.**

47       As used in this chapter:

48       (1) "Board" means the Wildlife Board.

49       (2) (a) "Conveyance" means a terrestrial or aquatic vehicle or a vehicle part that may  
50 carry or contain a Dreissena mussel.

51       (b) "Conveyance" includes a motor vehicle, a vessel, a motorboat, a sailboat, a personal  
52 watercraft, a container, a trailer, a live well, or a bilge area.

53       (3) "Decontaminate" means to:

54       (a) drain and dry all non-treated water; and

55       (b) chemically or thermally treat in accordance with rule.

- 56 (4) "Director" means the director of the division.
- 57 (5) "Division" means the Division of Wildlife Resources.
- 58 (6) "Dreissena mussel" means a mussel of the genus Dreissena at any life stage,  
59 including a zebra mussel, a quagga mussel, and Conrad's false mussel.
- 60 (7) "Equipment" means an article, tool, implement, or device capable of carrying or  
61 containing:
  - 62 (a) water; or
  - 63 (b) a Dreissena mussel.
- 64 (8) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of Natural  
65 Resources.
- 66 (9) "Facility" means a structure that is located within or adjacent to a water body.
- 67 (10) "Infested water" means a geographic region, water body, facility, or water supply  
68 system within or outside the state that the board identifies in rule as carrying or containing a  
69 Dreissena mussel.
- 70 (11) "Vessel" means the same as that term is defined in Section [73-18-2](#).
- 71 [~~(11)~~] (12) "Water body" means natural or impounded surface water, including a  
72 stream, river, spring, lake, reservoir, pond, wetland, tank, and fountain.
- 73 [~~(12)~~] (13) (a) "Water supply system" means a system that treats, conveys, or  
74 distributes water for irrigation, industrial, waste water treatment, or culinary use.
  - 75 (b) "Water supply system" includes a pump, canal, ditch, or pipeline.
  - 76 (c) "Water supply system" does not include a water body.
- 77 Section 2. Section **23-27-301** is amended to read:  
78 **23-27-301. Division's power to prevent invasive species infestation.**  
79 To eradicate and prevent the infestation of a Dreissena mussel, the division may:
  - 80 (1) (a) establish inspection stations located at or along:
    - 81 (i) highways, as defined in Section [72-1-102](#);
    - 82 (ii) ports of entry, if the Department of Transportation authorizes the division to use the

- 83 port of entry; and
- 84 (iii) publicly accessible:
- 85 (A) boat ramps; and
- 86 (B) conveyance launch sites; and
- 87 (b) temporarily stop, detain, and inspect a conveyance or equipment that:
- 88 (i) the division reasonably believes is in violation of Section 23-27-201;
- 89 (ii) the division reasonably believes is in violation of Section 23-27-306;
- 90 ~~[(ii)]~~ (iii) is stopped at an inspection station; or
- 91 ~~[(iii)]~~ (iv) is stopped at an administrative checkpoint;
- 92 (2) conduct an administrative checkpoint in accordance with Section 77-23-104;
- 93 (3) detain and quarantine a conveyance or equipment as provided in Section
- 94 23-27-302;
- 95 (4) order a person to decontaminate a conveyance or equipment; and
- 96 (5) inspect the following that may contain a Dreissena mussel:
- 97 (a) a water body;
- 98 (b) a facility; and
- 99 (c) a water supply system.

100 Section 3. Section 23-27-304 is enacted to read:

101 **23-27-304. Aquatic invasive species fee.**

102 (1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), there is imposed an annual nonresident  
103 aquatic invasive species fee of \$20 on each vessel in order to launch or operate a vessel in  
104 waters of this state if:

- 105 (i) the vessel is owned by a nonresident; and
- 106 (ii) the vessel would otherwise be subject to registration requirements under Section  
107 73-18-7 if the vessel were owned by a resident of this state.

108 (b) The provisions of Subsection (1)(a) do not apply if the vessel is owned and  
109 operated by a state or federal government agency and the vessel is used within the course and

110 scope of the duties of the agency.

111 (c) The division shall administer and collect the fee described in Subsection (1)(a), and  
112 the fee shall be deposited into the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Account created in  
113 Section [23-27-305](#).

114 (2) Before launching a vessel on the waters of this state, a nonresident shall pay the  
115 aquatic invasive species fee as described in Subsection (1), and the vessel owner shall  
116 successfully complete an aquatic invasive species education course offered by the division.

117 (3) (a) The division shall study options and feasibility of implementing an automated  
118 system capable of scanning, photographing, and providing real-time information regarding a  
119 conveyance's or equipment's:

120 (i) last entry into a body of water; and

121 (ii) last decontamination.

122 (b) The study described in Subsection (3)(a) shall evaluate the system's capability of:

123 (i) operation with or without the use or supervision of personnel;

124 (ii) operation 24 hours per day;

125 (iii) capturing a state assigned number on a vessel or conveyance as described in

126 Section [73-18-6](#);

127 (iv) preserving photographic evidence of:

128 (A) a conveyance's state assigned bow number;

129 (B) a conveyance's or equipment's entry into a body of water, including the global  
130 positioning system location of where the conveyance is photographed; and

131 (C) decontamination of the conveyance or equipment;

132 (v) identifying a conveyance or equipment not owned by a resident that is entering a  
133 body of water in this state; and

134 (vi) collecting the fee described in Subsection (1).

135 (c) The division shall present a report of the study and findings described in

136 Subsections (3)(a) and (b) to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim

137 Committee before November 30, 2020.

138 (d) Based on the findings of the study described in this Subsection (3), the division  
139 shall implement a pilot program to provide the services described in this Subsection (3) on or  
140 before May 1, 2021.

141 (4) The board may increase fees assessed under Subsection (1), so long as:

142 (a) the fee for nonresidents described in Subsection (1) is no less than the resident fee  
143 described in Section [73-18-26](#); and

144 (b) the fee is confirmed in the legislative fee schedule.

145 (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
146 board may make rules establishing procedures for:

147 (a) proof of payment and other methods of verifying compliance with this section;

148 (b) special requirements applicable on interstate water bodies in this state; and

149 (c) other provisions necessary for the administration of the program.

150 Section 4. Section **23-27-305** is enacted to read:

151 **23-27-305. Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Account.**

152 (1) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the Aquatic  
153 Invasive Species Interdiction Account.

154 (2) The restricted account shall consist of:

155 (a) nonresident aquatic invasive species fees collected under Section [23-27-304](#);

156 (b) resident aquatic invasive species fees collected under Section [73-18-26](#); and

157 (c) any other amount deposited in the restricted account from donations,

158 appropriations, contractual agreements, and accrued interest.

159 (3) Upon appropriation, the division shall use the fees collected under Sections

160 [23-27-305](#) and [73-18-26](#) and deposited in the Aquatic Invasive Species Account to fund aquatic  
161 invasive species prevention and containment efforts.

162 Section 5. Section **23-27-306** is enacted to read:

163 **23-27-306. Removal of drain plug or similar device during transport.**

164 (1) Before transporting a conveyance on a highway, as defined in Section 72-1-102, in  
165 the state, a person shall:

166 (a) remove the plugs and similar devices that prevent drainage of raw water systems on  
167 the conveyance; and

168 (b) to the extent feasible, drain all water from live wells, bilges, ballast tanks, or  
169 similar compartments on the conveyance.

170 (2) A person who fails to comply with Subsection (1) is guilty of a class C  
171 misdemeanor.

172 Section 6. Section 73-18-22 is amended to read:

173 **73-18-22. Boating Account created -- Contents -- Use of money.**

174 (1) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the Boating  
175 Account.

176 (2) The restricted account shall consist of~~[(a)]~~, except as provided under Sections  
177 73-18-24 and 73-18-25, all registration fees and related money collected by the division or an  
178 authorized agent, less the costs of collecting motorboat and sailboat registration fees by an  
179 authorized agent~~[, and]~~.

180 ~~[(b) aquatic invasive species mitigation fees collected under Section 73-18-26.]~~

181 (3) The amount retained by an authorized agent under Subsection (2)~~[(a)]~~ may not  
182 exceed 20% of the fees charged in Section 73-18-7.

183 (4) ~~[Except as provided in Subsection (5), money]~~ Money in the Boating Account may  
184 be used for:

185 (a) the construction, improvement, operation, and maintenance of publicly owned  
186 boating facilities;

187 (b) boater education; and

188 (c) the payment of the costs and expenses of the division in administering and  
189 enforcing this chapter.

190 ~~[(5) Fees collected under Section 73-18-26 and deposited into the Boating Account~~

191 ~~shall be used for aquatic invasive species interdiction.]~~

192 Section 7. Section **73-18-26** is amended to read:

193 **73-18-26. Resident aquatic invasive species fee -- Amount -- Deposit.**

194 (1) In addition to the registration fee imposed under Section **73-18-7**, there is imposed  
195 an annual resident aquatic invasive species [~~mitigation~~] fee of \$10 on a motorboat or sailboat  
196 required to be registered under Section **73-18-7**.

197 (2) The fee imposed under Subsection (1) shall be deposited [~~in the Boating Account~~  
198 ~~created in Section **73-18-22** for the purpose of aquatic invasive species interdiction.]~~ into the  
199 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Account created in Section **23-27-305**.

200 Section 8. **Effective date.**

201 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2020.