

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3985

To allow States to require payment of State fees related to boating as a condition for issuance of a vessel number and to collect such fees in conjunction with other fees related to vessel numbering.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2026

Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To allow States to require payment of State fees related to boating as a condition for issuance of a vessel number and to collect such fees in conjunction with other fees related to vessel numbering.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “State Boating Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. COLLECTION OF STATE FEES RELATED TO BOAT-** 6 **ING.**

7 Section 12307 of title 46, United States Code, is
8 amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

2 (A) by striking “The authority” and in-
 3 serting “(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority”;
 4 and

5 (B) by striking “that are—” and inserting
 6 “that—”;

7 (2) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by inserting “are” before “prescribed”;
 9 and

10 (B) by striking “; or” and inserting a
 11 semicolon;

12 (3) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) by inserting “are” before “related”;
 14 and

15 (B) by striking the period and inserting “;
 16 or”; and

17 (4) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) require the payment of State fees related
 19 to boating, which may include fees for search and
 20 rescue operations, boating safety measures, or ef-
 21 forts to address aquatic invasive species.

22 “(b) STATE FEES RELATED TO BOATING.—A State
 23 issuing authority may collect a fee described in subsection
 24 (a)(3) in conjunction with the collection of any other fee
 25 established under this section.

1 “(c) USE OF FEES.—Fees collected by States under
2 the authority of this section may only be used to fund ac-
3 tivities directly related to improving recreational boating,
4 boater safety, boater access, use of waterways by rec-
5 reational boaters, and aquatic invasive species mitiga-
6 tion.”.

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