

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB554

Chairperson: Senator Russ Karpisek

Committee: General Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 28, 2011

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 554 would prohibit persons from having open containers of alcohol on boats and personal watercraft which are underway on waters of the state. Nebraska already does not allow open containers of alcohol in motor vehicles as having passengers who have been drinking can be a distraction to the driver. This is true on boats as well. People who have been drinking on a boat can not only be a distraction to the operator of the boat, but they can also be a danger to themselves if they fall overboard. Alcohol can impede a person's vision, balance, depth perception, and sense of direction, especially when the distractions of a marine environment, such as sun, glare, wind, motion, waves, currents, and noise levels are factored in.

Alcoholic beverage, and open alcoholic beverage container would have the same definitions already found in Neb. Rev. Stat. §60-6,211.08, which bans open containers of alcohol in motor vehicles. Other terms are already defined in the State Boat Act.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John Harms