

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2003

LB 305

system. So I think number five on this sheet is not a change in policy substantially. It's technical and clean up. And finally, number six is again the realities of duplication of law enforcement required to enforce an act. If you read the State Boat Act, it says all law enforcement agents, all individuals, whether they be local, whether they be the Game and Parks, whether they be the State Patrol, are responsible for the enforcement of the act. Well, what happens if you have an accident? Who's going to make the decision on what should happen at that time? We've worked with Game and Parks, we've worked with the State Patrol, and we even have a situation in Douglas County where the sheriff's office has taken care of accidents without notifying either one, and done it well. The idea though is, is that the State Patrol lab is going to be the place where a lot of this information is going to end up for investigations and other future litigation that might come out of the accident. So...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...the sticking point seems to be the education side of things. Well, again, delayed implementation; willing to work with whoever is concerned. At the hearing, everybody would have had to...been required to take the course. Senator Bourne and I have talked about this. This has been in the paper. People know about it. I've had comments about people throughout the district, throughout the state that have said, I really like that because of this problem we've experienced, as experienced boaters, with individuals who don't know the law. The other part of this graduated system is this. Anybody who is below the age of 16 now that operates a personal watercraft already has taken the course. We're dealing with a limited number of individuals in that category. So at the appearance it might look huge, the reality is when you look at the individuals that have been trained, the opportunities that are there, I think this is simplistic in its intent. I think it's reasonable in its goal. And I would continue to answer any questions and try and alleviate any concerns. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman, and that was your third time, Senator Erdman. Senator Jones.