

**Testimony on SB 49 relating to Boating Under the Influence
To
The House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice**

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SB 49 seeks to amend statutes related to boating under the influence. **The Department supports the provisions contained in the bill and requested the introduction of the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

In 2011, the Legislature amended driving under the influence laws related to the time period to measure the alcohol level when operating or attempting to operate a motor vehicle under the influence from two to three hours. The Department is requesting the same amendment in relation to the time period for boating under the influence laws for consistency in law as well as other practical reasons associated with BUI. For example, many times, reservoirs are located at a significant distance from a jail facility. Further, the difficulty of securing a vessel from a lone operator is vastly different than securing a motor vehicle on the side of a road.

In 2012, Department officers processed 52 individuals for BUI and according to vessel inspection data, 812 vessels or 14.4% of the total vessels inspected contained some sort of alcohol on board. Of those 812 vessels, 346 listed the operator as having consumed some alcohol.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary amended the bill to make it consistent with other DUI language in the statutes.

The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in favorable passage of the bill.