
THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 102
Author: Richardson (D)
Introduced: 4/21/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: National Safe Boating Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes May 16 to May 22, 2026, inclusive, as National Safe Boating Week, and the start of a year-round effort to promote safe boating in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Department of Parks and Recreation estimates that 4 million Californians engage in boating, fishing, and other recreational activities on California's navigable waters.
- 2) In 2024, the United States Coast Guard counted 377 recreational boating accidents in California that involved 45 deaths, 203 injuries, and significant property damage. The majority of accidents are caused by human error or poor decisions, not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors.
- 3) Alcohol use remains the leading known contributing factor in all fatal boating accidents nationwide, accounting for 20% of total fatalities where the primary cause was known.
- 4) Seventy-six percent of reported boating accident victims who died in 2024 drowned, and of those drowning victims, 87% were not wearing life jackets.
- 5) Boating safety courses and boating safety campaigns can teach people how to adhere to better boating practices and make safer decisions.

This resolution recognizes May 16 to May 22, 2026, inclusive, as National Safe Boating Week, and the start of a year-round effort to promote safe boating in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

SR 39 (Richardson, 2025) – Adopted in Senate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

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