

SENATE BILL NO. 306—SENATOR WASHINGTON (BY REQUEST)

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Regulates the operation of a motorboat equipped with an engine cut-off switch. (BDR 43-81)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City Jail or Detention Facility.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to watercraft; prohibiting the operation of a motorboat that is equipped with an engine cut-off switch in excess of a certain rate of speed if the engine cut-off switch or engine cut-off switch link is missing, disconnected or not operating properly; prohibiting the operation of such a motorboat in excess of a certain rate of speed unless the engine cut-off switch link is attached to the body, clothing or personal flotation device of the operator; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law governs the operation of motorboats and other vessels on the waters of this State. (Chapter 488 of NRS) Existing law also provides that any person who violates any of the provisions of chapter 488 of NRS is guilty of a misdemeanor. (NRS 488.950)

This bill establishes safety standards for the operation of motorboats that are equipped with engine cut-off switches. An engine cut-off switch automatically stops the engine of a motorboat if the operator of the motorboat becomes separated from it. The engine cut-off switch is activated by a mechanical or wireless device which serves as a link between the operator and the engine cut-off switch. This bill prohibits a person who owns or controls a motorboat that is equipped with an engine cut-off switch from operating or authorizing another person to operate the motorboat at a rate of speed greater than 5 nautical miles per hour if the engine cut-off switch or engine cut-off switch link is missing, disconnected or not operating properly. This bill also prohibits any person from operating such a motorboat at a



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15 rate of speed greater than 5 nautical miles per hour unless the engine cut-off switch
16 link is attached to his body, clothing or personal flotation device.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 488 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 1. A person who owns or controls a motorboat that is
4 equipped with an engine cut-off switch shall not operate or
5 authorize another person to operate the motorboat at a rate of
6 speed greater than 5 nautical miles per hour if the engine cut-off
7 switch or engine cut-off switch link is missing, disconnected or not
8 operating properly.

9 2. A person shall not operate a motorboat that is equipped
10 with an engine cut-off switch at a rate of speed greater than 5
11 nautical miles per hour unless the engine cut-off switch link is
12 attached to his body, clothing or personal flotation device.

13 3. As used in this section:

14 (a) "Engine cut-off switch" means a switch that automatically
15 stops the engine of a motorboat if activated by an engine cut-off
16 switch link.

17 (b) "Engine cut-off switch link" means a device that, if
18 attached to an operator, activates an engine cut-off switch if the
19 operator is separated from the motorboat. The term includes a
20 lanyard or other mechanical device and a wireless cut-off device.

21 (c) "Wireless cut-off device" means an engine cut-off switch
22 link that transmits an electromagnetic signal to an engine cut-off
23 switch.

