

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 190

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 190, as amended, would amend existing law relating to boater safety education for operation of a sailboat. Current law requires all persons born on or after January 1, 1989, to possess a certificate of completion of a boater safety course authorized by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (Department) in order to operate a motorboat or sailboat on Kansas public waters without direct supervision. This requirement does not apply to anyone 21 years of age or older.

The bill would exempt any individual operating a sailboat that does not have a motor and has an overall length of 16 feet, 7 inches or less while participating in an instructor-led sailing class from the requirement to possess a certificate of completion from an approved boater safety education course.

Background

The bill was introduced by Senator Holland. In the Senate Committee on Transportation, Senator Holland stated the bill would make sailboat training classes more accessible to persons under 21 years of age who do not possess a certificate of completion of an approved boater safety training course. A representative of the Perry Yacht Club also spoke in favor of the bill, stating a number of topics covered in the Kansas course are not relevant to operating small sailboats

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

that do not have motors and could cause some confusion for youth participating in an instructor-led sailing course.

A Department representative testified neutrally on the original bill. The representative outlined the current requirements for boater safety. The representative did note concern with language in the original bill relating to certificates of completion and the length of the sailboat.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to reduce the sailboat length in the exemption from 20 feet or less to 16 feet, 7 inches and to specify the sailboat may not have a motor. The Committee also amended the bill to strike language relating to an exemption for a person who has completed an instructor-led class and can furnish proof of successful completion and to Department authority for rules and regulations on this topic.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, the Department indicates passage of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the agency.