

Senate Transportation Committee

Declan Donahue 271-3324

HB 393-FN, prohibiting mooring of boats without a permit.

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025

Time Opened: 2:26 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:32 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Fenton and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill expands the definition of "mooring" to include spuds, lifts, and similar devices used to secure boats to the bottom of the public waters of the state. This bill also prohibits the use of spuds, lifts, or similar devices in place of a permitted mooring in waters requiring mooring permits and includes a list of exemptions.

Sponsors:

Rep. J. Smith

Rep. Avellani

Rep. R. Brown

Rep. Cordelli

Rep. Crawford

Rep. J. MacDonald

Rep. D. Paige

Rep. Peternel

Rep. Woodcock

Who supports the bill: Senator McConkey, Tim Dunleavy, Jim Elecchio, Andrea LaMoreaux, Steve Wingate, Jim Grimbilas, Samantha Parkman, Jim Iglacio

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator McConkey

- Senator McConkey is presenting this bill for Rep. Smith.
- This bill would prohibit mooring of boats without a permit. It is an issue on the lake he lives on, and has heard others share this sentiment.

Tim Dunleavy

- On eight lakes, there are currently mooring requirements. Because of an issue with the definition of mooring, people were using devices like sea legs on their boats to circumvent the existing statute. People who would be ineligible for a mooring permit due to back property or a lack of proper frontage would use this loophole to keep their boats in the lakes. While devices like those used for

improper mooring are used for marine construction, barges, and government vessels, allowances for those were provided by a House amendment.

- Senator McConkey asked how much a mooring decal costs to produce. Mr. Dunleavy said he would look into it.
- Senator Fenton asked when leaving a boat unattended becomes mooring. Mr. Dunleavy stated that overnight or long-term storage is considered mooring. Additionally, docks with prevailing winds that cannot support the weight of the boat, or late in summer when water recedes to not being deep enough for the boat.
- He added that property owner associations that have beach area may apply for a congregate permit, allowing people to store their boat when they don't have adequate docking.

Joe Elecchio

- As a resident, the effects of this legislation are not theoretical. An abundance of boats parked on the water inhibit residents' ability to enjoy the beach. Right now, a person can park as many boats as they want due to a lack of regulation. This creates a safety issue with sailboats and other boats due to the lack of available space.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 26, 2025