

# Senate Transportation Committee

*Vivian Hall 271-3091*

**SB 40**, relative to safe boater education certificates.

**Hearing Date:** January 28, 2025

**Time Opened:** 1:26p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:33 p.m.

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

**Bill Analysis:** This bill adds an online examination approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) to the safe boater education certificate qualification and requires the department of safety to adopt rules relative to its implementation.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Lang  
Rep. Coker

Sen. Innis  
Rep. Edwards

Rep. Moffett

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**Who supports the bill:**

Senator Lang, District 2; Tom Prasol, Kalkomey Enterprises; Jodi Grimbilas, New Hampshire Marine Trades Association; Jessie Medeiros; Curtis Howland; Town Councilor Curtis Register.

**Who opposes the bill:** Senator Debra Altschiller, District 24

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Tim Dunleavy, Marine Patrol, Department of Safety

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Lang, District 12**

- Senator Lang introduced this bill to add an online program for boater safety education certificates and licenses. New Hampshire is one of the few states left that does not offer it.
- He explained how he was able to get his certification online in Delaware and use New Hampshire's reciprocity process to have his license transferred.
- Senator Prentiss asked what he meant by a passing score of "80 or ?". He clarified that it was a typo.

### **Tom Prasol, Kalkomey Enterprises**

- Mr. Prasol explained the proposed bill would still require in person classes for individuals under 18.
- He stated New Hampshire is one three states to not offer online classes.
- The money that is made from these classes would go to the Navigation Safety Fund under RSA-D:17.

### **Jodi Grimbilas, New Hampshire Marine Trades Association**

- Ms. Grimbilas would like New Hampshire to raise enough money to go towards the Navigation Safety Fund.

### **Neutral Information Presented:**

### **Tim Dunleavy, (Retired Program Specialist) Marine Patrol, Department of Safety**

- Mr. Dunleavy stated that the online program is more convenient. However, New Hampshire has the lowest boating fatality rate in the country.
- Per student revenue is \$32 per student for in-person classes and \$7 online.
- The passing rate online is 84% and 94% for the in-person class.
- He expressed concern that online classes would be difficult to have instructors available to answer questions students might have.
- Senator Ricciardi remarked that there are problems on both ends and a margin of error either way.
- Mr. Dunleavy noted that conveniences are being offered. A commitment of 1 hour in person to take exams is the difference between what is being proposed and what is happening now.
- Senator Prentiss asked how to ensure there is no outside assistance in regard to the online exam? Mr. Dunleavy answered that the Department of Safety wants to implement guard rails to prevent people from using outside assistance.
- Senator McConkey inquired if the 8-hour class is offered every weekend during the winter, and if there are 8-hour classes offered throughout the state. Mr. Dunleavy explained there are 3-4 classes a month during the winter and 4-5 classes on the weekends during March and April. He also emphasized they never exceed a 14-day wait period.

