CHAPTER 56
HB 1046-FN - FINAL VERSION

8Feb2024... 0252h

2024 SESSION

24-2522
11/08

HOUSE BILL ***1046-FN***

AN ACT requiring a boat owner who is not the operator to notify law enforcement and file an accident report in certain circumstances.

SPONSORS: Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 3; Rep. R. Brown, Carr. 3; Rep. Rung, Hills. 12; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill requires a boat owner who is not the operator to notify law enforcement and file an accident report in certain circumstances.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four

AN ACT requiring a boat owner who is not the operator to notify law enforcement and file an accident report in certain circumstances.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

56:1 Accident Reports. Amend RSA 270:1-a, I to read as follows:

I. The operator of a vessel who knows or reasonably should have known that he or she has just been involved in any accident that involved death, personal injury, or damage to property, shall immediately stop said vessel at the scene of the accident, render any assistance that he or she is capable of giving to the occupants of any other vessel involved in the accident, and give the operator or owner of any other vessel involved in such accident, and to any person injured, and to the owner of any property damaged, the operator's name and the owner's name and address, the vessel registration number, and the name and address of each occupant. If by reason of injury or absence or removal from the place of the accident or other cause, such injured person, or operator of such other vessel, or owner of the property damaged, or any of them, is unable to understand or receive the information required in this section, such information shall be given to any marine patrol officer or other police officer with jurisdiction arriving at the scene of the accident or immediately to a marine patrol officer or other police officer at the nearest police station or at marine patrol headquarters. Any person operating a vessel that is in any manner involved in the accident shall, within 15 days after such accident, report in writing to the department of safety the facts required hereunder together with a statement of the circumstances if any person is injured or killed or if damage to property is in excess of $2,000. If the operator is physically or mentally incapable of making such report, ***or fails or refuses to make the report or provide required information,*** the owner of the vessel involved in the accident or the owner's representative shall, after learning of the accident, forthwith ***notify any marine patrol officer or other police officer with jurisdiction and*** make such report. The operator or the owner shall furnish to the department such relevant information as the department shall require.

56:2 Penalty. Amend RSA 270:1-b to read as follows:

270:1-b Penalty. Whoever fails to file the reports required by RSA 270:1-a, I or otherwise fails to comply with the requirements relating to injury to property, or relating to the ***immediate notification of the incident or*** report to be made to the department, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor if a natural person, or guilty of a felony if any other person. Whoever fails to comply with the requirements when death or personal injury resulted or whoever gives information required knowing or having reason to believe that such information is false, or fails to comply with any of the other requirements thereof shall be guilty of a class B felony.

56:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

Approved: June 14, 2024
Effective Date: January 01, 2025