

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Carbon Monoxide Detectors - Boats

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Overview

This bill would establish “Sophia’s Law” to require a carbon monoxide detector on certain boats and require training and warning labels.

Section

- 1 **Enclosed accommodation compartment.** Adds § 86B.005, subd. 4a. Defines “enclosed accommodation compartment” for purposes of the new carbon monoxide detector requirement to include a boat with a space that contains designated sleeping accommodations, a galley area with sink and a head compartment.
- 2 **Marine carbon monoxide detection system.** Adds § 86B.005, subd. 8a. Defines “marine carbon monoxide detection system” for purposes of the new carbon monoxide detector requirement.
- 3 **Carbon monoxide detection device requirements.** Adds § 86B.532.

Subd. 1. Requirements. Prohibits a boat with an enclosed accommodation compartment from being operated on state waters or sold in the state unless the boat has a functioning marine carbon monoxide detection system installed.

Subd. 2. Boating safety course. Requires state sponsored or approved boating safety courses to incorporate information about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning while boating and how to prevent it.

Subd. 3. Carbon monoxide poisoning warning labels. Requires boats with enclosed accommodation compartments to have carbon monoxide poisoning warning labels affixed to certain areas of the boat.

Section

Subd. 4. License agents; distribution. Requires the DNR to send out informational brochures and warning labels to all boat owners who are required to have the warnings and provide the same to licensing agents. License agents are required to make the brochures and labels available and make an effort to inform new owners of the requirements. Requires the DNR to highlight the new requirements in watercraft renewal notices and in the department's Minnesota Boating Guide.

Subd. 5. Safety warning. States that a violation of the section results only in a safety warning.

Provides an effective date of May 1, 2017.

4 Citation. States that sections 1 and 2 may be known as "Sophia's Law."