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Derelict vessels generate costs to taxpayers, impede the recreational enjoyment of waters, pose navigational safety hazards, and contaminate the environment.

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Strengthening the Derelict Vessel Removal Program through Prevention and Enforcement Measures

ISSUE

The Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) has been an extremely effective and successful tool since its inception in 2003; however, derelict vessels continue to pollute state waters, and every year more vessels are reported to the DVRP than can be removed. Current statute limits the types of prevention measures the DVRP can take, and additional resources are needed to effectively enforce current aquatic regulations.

SOLUTION

This proposal offers a suite of prevention and enforcement measures. These measures will reduce the burden to taxpayers and the environment by removing high-risk vessels from the waters of the state before they become derelict, and by enforcing existing aquatic regulations.

Removes the spending cap on the Vessel Turn-In Program

Currently, the VTIP is limited by statute to spend no more than \$200,000 per biennium. DNR proposes to remove that cap so the program can remove an increased number of vessels.

Reduces length limit on vessels subject to secondary liability law

DNR proposes to lower the vessel criteria from 65 feet to 35 feet to capture a larger number of vessels that pose a significant threat of becoming derelict or abandoned.

Provides grants to local law enforcement

DNR proposes to issue grants, at a maximum of \$50,000 each, to local law enforcement agencies to compensate them for time and equipment needed to enforce vessel registration and aquatic laws.

Extends ticketing authority to the DVRP

DNR proposes to extend ticketing authority to the DVRP to enforce vessel registration and other aquatic laws.

Pilots a vessel recycling program

DNR proposes to conduct a pilot project on the creation of a vessel recycling waste stream. If successful, the project can be replicated around the state in partnership with other authorized public entities and rural communities.