

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1447

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING FLOTATION DEVICES AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ABOARD VESSELS; TO REQUIRE NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN ACCIDENTS INVOLVING VESSELS; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.

Basic Change : Sponsor: Representative Cozart

The bill adds new language to specify that a hull number must be verified in order to register a boat. The bill adds a new section to the Arkansas code to provide that on and after January 1, 2017, DFA cannot issue, renew, or update ownership of a motorboat imported or manufactured after November 1, 1972, unless the department determines the motorboat has a primary HIN that meets federal requirements. Verification of the HIN may be a clear photograph of the HIN or a pencil rubbing of the HIN. If the motorboat does not have a federally compliant HIN, DFA is to refer the owner to the Boating Law Administration of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for assignment of a HIN and to assure a federally compliant HIN is affixed to the motorboat.

Revenue Impact :

None.

Taxpayer Impact :

As of January 1, 2017, owners of motorboats imported or manufactured after November 1, 1972 will be required to provide a federally compliant hull identification number as a condition to register a motorboat.

Resources Required :

No additional resources required.

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided.

Procedural Changes :

Revise Motor Vehicle Procedures Manual and distribute to Revenue Offices. Revenue Office and Office of Motor Vehicle personnel will need instruction on how to recognize a federally compliant hull identification number.

Legal Analysis :

The bill prohibits DFA from issuing, renewing or updating ownership information on a certificate of number for a vessel unless DFA determines that the vessel has a primary hull identification number meeting federal requirements. These federal regulations provide the specific requirements for issuing and maintaining a hull identification number for a vessel. For motorboats imported or manufactured after November 1, 1972, DFA will be required to determine whether the vessel has a primary hull identification number. If the vessel does not have such a number, DFA must refer the owner to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for a number to be assigned to the vessel.