



# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE



## Message from Government Relations VP James Muldoon

Hello Committee Members,

With the National Sailing Programs Symposium (NSPS) taking place this weekend in Jacksonville, wanted to once again provide everyone in the committee with some government relations updates.

As always, please refer to the *In This Issue* section on the right for a preview of what is to be featured. Included is information related to proposed changes in state BWI, life jacket, and boating safety laws, as well as some updates that occurred at the Federal level. If anyone would like more information on the items listed, please let me know. My contact information is provided below, and please do not hesitate to reach out directly with questions or comments.

Again, thank you for being a member of the US Sailing Government Relations Committee. We hope everyone has a great time at NSPS and look forward to catching up with most of you in Jacksonville.

All the Best,

Jim

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## *Legislative News*

### Proposed BWI Changes

With majority of 2019 state legislative sessions underway, at least four have proposed legislation

to improve BWI laws:



## California

[SB 1247](#): "This bill would delete that definition of "mechanically propelled vessel" and would instead authorize a peace officer having reasonable cause to believe that any person was operating a vessel, as defined, or manipulating any water skis, aquaplane, or similar device under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or any drug, or both, who lawfully arrests such a person for such a violation, to request that the person submit to that chemical testing of his or her blood, breath, or urine."

## New York

[A01486](#): "Provides for the repeal of existing boating while intoxicated laws and replaces them with laws related to operation of a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs which closer resemble the existing DWI laws."

## Oregon

[SB 7](#): "Provides that person commits offense of driving while under influence of intoxicants or offense of operating boat while under influence of intoxicants if person drives vehicle or boat and has 0.05 percent or more by weight of alcohol in person's blood."

## Wyoming

[SF0040](#): "An act relating to watercraft; amending the alcohol concentration level that constitutes operation of a motorboat by an intoxicated person (.08 %); specifying the alcohol concentration levels applicable to the operation of all other watercraft (.10%); and providing for an effective date: July 1,2019"



## Proposed Life Jacket Changes

Along with BWI changes, there have been at least two states that have proposed changes to life jackets requirements for children and young adults:

## Missouri

[SB 119](#): Introduced as "Hannah's Law", this bill would change the increase the age requirements of children wearing life jackets from age 7 to 12. Would also apply to those on board any craft or who is wading, swimming in navigable public waters more than 3 feet deep. Adults who allow will be charged with Class C misdemeanor. Does not apply when lifeguard in an official capacity is present. Currently Missouri is one of nine states that currently has the age minimum under the recommended age 12.

## Mississippi

[HB 161](#): "An act to amend 59-21-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, to increase from twelve to eighteen the minimum age for a person who is required to wear a US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while on board certain motorboats, sailboats, or vessels"

## Proposed Boating Safety Changes

At least two states have submitted proposals to alter laws related to boating safety and operation:



### New York

A01414: "Relates to requiring individuals renting a boat to take a boating safety course."

S00335: "Relates to requiring propeller guards on vessels used to instruct children under the age of eighteen."

### New Jersey

A2297: "A person who is under 16 years of age may operate a power vessel on the tidal waters of this State while under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian when operating a vessel."

## 2018 Federal Updates



### Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018

Passed in December of 2018, it included 3 new provisions related to: installation of engine cut-off switches by manufacturers, distributors, and dealers on new boards less than 26 feet and generate 115 lbs. of static thrust; Increases length of time of registration with USCG National Vessel Documentation Center length of from 1 year to 5 years; Looks to improve cellular 911 and "Public Safety Answering Points" (PSAP) – 24/7 on call centers with trained dispatchers to receive 911 calls.

### Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

Passed in 2018, this law amended the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 to authorize national governing bodies (NGBs) to develop training, practices, policies, and procedures to prevent the abuse of minor or amateur athletes; and to require NGBs to develop and enforce policies, mechanisms, and procedures to prevent, report, and respond to the abuse of minor or amateur athletes. It also requires NGBs to report suspected child abuse to certain adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at a facility under the jurisdiction of an NGB.





## UPDATE: New SailGP sailing league set to hit the water

"SailGP, the new sailing league founded by tech billionaire Larry Ellison and five-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts, will leap from concept to reality next month when six souped-up catamarans hit the starting line off Shark Island in Sydney Harbor."

'After Sydney, the tour stops in San Francisco on May 4-5; New York on June 21-22; Cowes, England, on Aug. 10-11; and Marseille, France, on Sept. 20-22 for the finale that will include a winner-take-all \$1 million match race."

Please see full story [here](#).

Photo Credit: [SailGP](#)



## NY Family Pushes for State Law After Son's Tragic Boating Death Last Summer

"Ryan's mother, Kellie Weiss, says she wants the state Legislature to pass a bill that would require propeller guards on all boats used to instruct kids.

"What's important for me is to protect Ryan and his legacy and his memory and his feelings. And I think this is one thing that can help to do that for him," Weiss said. The legislation is a response to the sailing tragedy that took place on Long Island Sound in 2017."

The Weiss family was instrumental in getting a law passed in the Suffolk County legislature this past summer, requiring propeller guards on all instructional boats when instructing those under the age of 18.

See full story [here](#).

Photo Credit: [Jim Guaghan Twitter](#)

## Articles of Interest



### Trump to Modestly Boost 2019 Biofuel Mandate in Gasoline

"The Trump administration ordered oil companies to blend more renewable fuel into gasoline and diesel next year -- but it could be the last increase for years to come, as the government starts to make sweeping changes to the U.S. biofuel mandate."

"With the final 2019 quotas released Friday, the Environmental Protection Agency is kicking off a head-to-toe overhaul of the Renewable Fuel



### 2018 US Sailing Reach Initiative Impact Report

US Sailing has released its annual Reach program impact report. In 2018 the program was included in over 400 programs and US Sailing events, reaching 335,00 youth sailors nationwide.

The mission of US Sailing's Reach Initiative is to engage youth and enhance career opportunities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics while fostering Environmental Stewardship

Standard and setting off a fresh battle between the oil industry and agricultural interests over U.S. gasoline market share that will play out against an increasingly political backdrop."

through hands-on learning experiences.

See full report [here](#).

Photo Credit: [US Sailing](#)

See more [here](#).

Photo Credit: [ag.web](#)

## **Video**

### **"A Thing of Beauty..."**

Video Credit: [Discover Asia Sailing](#)



**REMINDER: ALL National On-Water Standards (NOWS) Available online!**

Are you interested in...

- Differentiating your course offerings?
- Increasing the quality of your instructional approach?
- Managing risks associated with providing on-water instruction?
- Having a significant impact on the safety of our nation's waterways?
- Getting leads from an independent boating safety website to increase your enrollments?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, then the National On-Water Standards (NOWS) are for you!

*NOWS are the new American national standards designed for courses that teach beginner students boating skills on the water.*

*NOWS are free to use!*

Visit [www.usnows.org](http://www.usnows.org) to learn how to:

**EMBRACE** the national standards  
**DESIGN** courses that meet the national standards  
**ASSESS & PROMOTE** following national standards

It's easy! Verify your beginner course follows NOWS today.

Visit [www.usnows.org](http://www.usnows.org) to gain status!

[Click here](#)

*NOWS: Advancing safer and enjoyable recreational boating*

## Contact Information



**If you have any questions, please use the contact information below:**

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