

HB 2670 -- SIGNAGE ON PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS

SPONSOR: Thomas

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 24 to 0.

This bill establishes "Marie's Law", which requires the Department of Natural Resources to place signage at certain state-owned boat ramps at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The signs must read "Marie's Message: Stay Afloat, Don't Drink and Boat".

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a straightforward bill, which is also known as "Marie's Law." It came about as a result of a drunk boating accident and this is an attempt to educate the public about appropriate and respectful boating. The boating while intoxicated laws in Missouri are outdated, and they should probably be changed to mirror Missouri's driving while intoxicated statutes. The Lake of the Ozarks is a pretty dangerous lake as it is but it's exacerbated by the consumption of alcohol. Accidents on the water happen fast, often faster than car accidents. Consumption of alcohol can lower a person's reaction time, which can make the difference in chances of surviving or avoiding an accident. Most people don't understand all the factors that go into speed on the water.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Thomas; Jeffery M. Hoots; Marvin Phillips; David Gray; and Kevin Halderman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.