



LC 25000-008/499 Boating Related Services, Program Fees

Problem	<p>The Marine Board's current fee rates are not sufficient to support agency operations at the current service level. This is a result of the general fee increase approved by the 2015 Legislature was anticipated to be \$5 per foot with an estimated 5% revenue decline in boat registrations. However, the Legislature approved \$4.50 and the actual registration revenue decline was 10%. The decline in boat registrations have a compounding impact by decreasing gas tax revenue, which is the second main revenue source for the agency, and it lowers US Coast Guard grant awards the agency receives. Increased costs for special payment contracts and services play an additional role in funding challenges.</p> <p>The agency had hoped to raise fees enough in 2015 to maintain current service levels for six years (three biennia). Revenue estimates show declining boat registrations and a need to pursue another fee increase in the 2019-21 biennium. Executive branch agencies like the Marine Board begin this process well in advance of a full legislative session. If a fee increase is approved, new rates would be implemented starting with 2020 boat registrations.</p> <p>While registrations are down, boating activity continues to increase. Failure to increase fees will result program cuts to marine law enforcement and boating facility grants. These include special payments that fund 32 county Sheriff's Office marine patrol programs and the Oregon State Police, for boating safety and marine law enforcement; fewer boating facility grants to support maintenance and access improvements (parking, restrooms, boat ramps, docks, piling, permitting assistance); and, will further reduce outreach and education efforts.</p> <p>The Marine Board approved \$1.3 million in cuts during the 2017-2019 biennium in addition to \$1.6 million in permanent reductions for the 2019-2021 biennium to minimize the impact of a fee increase to recreational boaters.</p>
Solution	<p>Changing the fee rates will provide revenue to fund important services to recreational boaters (marine law enforcement, boating facility access and boating safety education). This concept proposes to increase the registration cost per foot, one-time title fee, and boater education card or cost of a replacement.</p>
Fees	<p>\$5.95 per foot for motorboat registration (currently \$4.50), \$75 new title or title transfer fee (currently \$50), \$20 boater education card (currently \$10) and \$16 for a boater education card replacement (currently \$8).</p>