

**MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 10-2016-05**

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT OF THE WATERCRAFT
REGISTRATION RATES AND TO PROVIDE FOR MARINE SAFETY
ENHANCEMENTS RELATED TO PADDLESPORTS AND PONTOON VESSELS
OPERATING IN MICHIGAN WATERS

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC) provides advice to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding public recreational boating and related matters; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its responsibility to provide for the promotion and funding for marine safety and enforcement; the Waterways Program (Program) provides funding for the acquisition, design/development, operation, and maintenance of the statewide public recreational boating system; and

WHEREAS, the MSWC wishes to promote the growth in number, accessibility and user safety of paddle powered vessels operating in Michigan's open waters, harbors, inland lakes and rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, the MSWC and the Marine Safety and Enforcement community are greatly concerned about the injury, loss of life and property associated with the largely unregulated paddle sport environment; and

WHEREAS, the MSWC wishes to change the Michigan Watercraft Registration Rate Schedule last amended in 1993, relating to vessels classified as Pontoon boats; and

WHEREAS, the MSWC wishes to prevent the further erosion of resources available due to inflation on the ability of the Waterways Program to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee of the MSWC recommends the following;

- All rigid hulled kayaks and canoes in addition to rigid hulled Paddleboards (exceeding 8 feet in length) operating in Michigan's Great Lakes waters, tributaries, inland lakes and streams be required to display, in a conspicuous location, a Michigan Vessel Registration sticker. Acquisition of such Michigan Vessel Registration sticker is subject to a user fee of \$21.00 per three year registration period.
- All rigid hulled kayaks and canoes in addition to Paddleboards (exceeding 8 feet in length) operating in Michigan's Great Lakes waters, tributaries, inland lakes and streams be required to have available on board or worn at least one U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device for each person aboard such vessel
- That the current classification of Pontoon Vessel in the Michigan Watercraft Registration Rate Schedule last amended in 1993, be eliminated and further, that those vessels currently classified as Pontoon Vessels be subject to the same registration fees as traditionally hulled vessels of the same length as specified on the vessel's title
- That the Michigan Watercraft Registration Rate Schedule be amended annually to reflect a inflation factor similar to that utilized for property taxes under Michigan's Proposal A guidelines
- That the current carry - over provision in the statutes relating to Michigan Watercraft Registration be rescinded. This action would require the purchaser to procure a new registration sticker in the name on the post sale title in a timely manner, with no proration of the fees paid by the seller. This action would further aid in appropriate owner/operator information being immediately available to Water Safety enforcement and rescue personnel
- That the Michigan Watercraft Registration process and forms be amended to require appropriate multi-modal means of identifying the owner/operator of the registered vessel. Multi-modal identification is intended to facilitate appropriate response by Water Safety personnel. Multi-modal information for the owner/operator shall include at a minimum, multiple modes i.e. mailing address, land line and/or cellular phone numbers, email, vessel name, MMSI number and emergency contact information as appropriate to identification of the registered vessel
- That an outreach program be immediately constituted to facilitate input from persons or organizations representing the boating and paddle sports community to ensure that legislation resulting from these recommendations fairly and accurately represent the goals of the MSWC as stated above. Those goals being the promotion, funding, accessibility and safe utilization of Michigan's diverse recreational boating resources.

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION SUPPORT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF THE RECCOMMENDATIONS OF ITS COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR ENHANCEMENT OF WATER SAFETY PROGRAMS AND AMMENDMENT OF THE WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION RATES RELATED TO PADDLESPORT AND PONTOON VESSELS OPERATING IN MICHIGAN WATERS.

Submitted by: The Committee on Ways and Means of the Michigan State Waterways Commission

Date: Friday, October 21st, 2016

Voting Record:

Motioned by: Dennis Nickels

Yea: 7

Motion seconded by: James Hansen

Nay: 0

