

Co- chairs Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and member of the Environment Committee:

I would like to testify favorably for the implementation of this bill. Rhode Island has provided online boating education for a number of years and we find it a great force multiplier in today's climate of limited resources. Boaters can access the material from their own homes and study the course materials as is convenient to them. There is no need to proceed to a classroom for multiple instruction sessions which makes the education process much less of an intrusion on the busy schedules that people are faced with today. Learners can proceed at their own pace and review course materials multiple times. This is the preferred method of learning for many people. I also strongly support the use of a proctored examination at the culmination of the course to insure that all appropriate procedures are followed. This is the method we use in Rhode Island and we have found that at very high number of the people who utilize our online course successfully pass the proctored exam. Any tool that we can provide to make for a safer boating environment has great value.

Thank you for any consideration given this testimony.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Hall
Chief and Boating Law Administrator
RI DEM/Division of Law Enforcement
401-222-2284