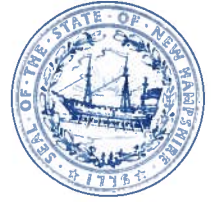




The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

January 10, 2018

The Honorable Andy Sanborn  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
State House, Room 302  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: SB 410 FN** *an Act establishing a registration fee for canoes and kayaks*

Dear Chair Sanborn and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 410. This bill would require a new annual registration for canoes and kayaks in New Hampshire at a cost of \$10 per vessel per year. The Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports the bill.

Under the provisions of this bill, revenues from canoe and kayak registrations would be collected by the Department of Safety or an authorized agent. Authorized agents (excluding state employees) would retain a \$3 processing fee, and the remaining \$7 of the registration fee would be divided evenly between the Fish and Game Search and Rescue Fund and the NHDES Lake Restoration and Preservation Fund. Any NHDES revenues that result from the registration fee would be used to expand lake management activities funded through the NHDES Lake Restoration and Preservation Fund with a goal of maintaining and enhancing water quality.

NHDES has concerns relative to missing details in the bill. Specifically, in lines 2-7 on Page 2, the bill language states that a \$3 fee will be retained by an authorized agent if there is one. The bill is unclear in describing how the full \$10 fee will be allocated in instances when there is no authorized agent (i.e., a state agency processes the registration). While we assume that it would be split 50-50 between the two entities in lines 8-11 on Page 2, it would be helpful to clarify the bill language. By way of background, the Department of Safety reports that approximately 26% of boat registrations are currently processed by authorized agents, and the remaining registrations are processed by state officials.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 410. Should you have further questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact either Ted Diers,

The Honorable Andy Sanborn  
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee  
January 10, 2018  
Page 2

Watershed Management Bureau Administrator at 603-271-3289 or [Ted.Diers@des.nh.gov](mailto:Ted.Diers@des.nh.gov),  
or me at 603-271-3449 or [Robert.Scott@des.nh.gov](mailto:Robert.Scott@des.nh.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Sen. D'Allesandro