



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Chris Christensen  
Chair, House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 410, relative to establishing a commission to study creating a boat safe card.

Dear Chair Christensen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 410. This bill seeks to establish a commission to study the creation of a Boat Safe Card in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports the bill.

New Hampshire has about 950 lakes and ponds that range from 10 acres to 45,000 acres, and 11,000 miles of river systems. Our lakes are typically ranked in the top five in the nation for water clarity. As such, our lakes are a draw for tourists from around the world and many who have their primary or secondary residences along the shorelines of our waterbodies, generating significant revenues for the state and local governments. Unfortunately, many of our lakes are showing signs of overuse including excessive chlorides, aquatic invasive species growth, and harmful algal blooms that threaten public health and safety and the overall quality of our waters.

Modeled after the Hike Safe Card, a Boat Safe Card has the potential to create a mechanism for surface water recreationists to voluntarily contribute to the health of rivers and lakes, and to support vital search and rescue operations.

The revenues derived from this bill could allow for expanded capacity of the Lake Restoration and Preservation Program. NHDES would utilize any revenues added to the Lake Restoration and Preservation fund to help diagnose and restore degraded state waterbodies. Funding could also be used to ensure the preservation of those waterbodies already meeting or exceeding standards.

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-3503 • Fax: 271-2867 TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

The Honorable Chris Christensen  
Chair, House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
April 3, 2018  
Page 2

NHDES would be pleased to participate in the Boat Safe Card commission should the legislation ultimately become law.

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 Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator, at 603-271-2248 or [Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Smagula@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 extending to the right.

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Senator D'Allesandro