

# NEWS

*... from the Illinois House of Representatives*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## **Fine-Sponsored Measure Aims to Make Waterways Safer**

**GLENVIEW, IL**—As part of her efforts to make our waterways safer, legislation sponsored by state Representative Laura Fine (D-Glenview) to bring the penalties for drunk boating in line with drunk driving recently passed the Illinois House and now returns to the Senate for further consideration.

“Many people will spend a summer afternoon on their boat with family and friends and it is imperative that they are safe from harm,” Fine said. “By bringing the penalties for operating a boat while intoxicated in line with drunk driving, I hope we can prevent future accidents while protecting local residents.”

Senate Bill 1479 mandates that the operator of a boat involved in an accident which resulted in the injury or death of another person, must submit to chemical testing to determine if they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If the operator refuses to submit to testing the operator may have their driver’s license suspended. This updates boating under the influence laws and makes the penalties the same as driving under the influence. According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources there were 101 boating-related accidents in Illinois last year, resulting in 17 deaths and 77 injuries.

“Too many families have experienced avoidable tragedies when people are operating cars or boats while under the influence of drugs or alcohol,” Fine said. “This legislation will help hold people responsible for operating a boat while drunk and help protect families enjoying our waterways.”

For more information, please call Rep. Fine’s constituent service office by calling (847) 998-1717 or by e-mailing [RepFine@gmail.com](mailto:RepFine@gmail.com).

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