

Boating Associations of Ohio Report Fall 2024

OMTA Testifies on Legislation Removing the “Spotter” Requirement

HB 284 to remove the requirement that boats have a “spotter” when participating in towing water sports. Under the bill, a boat with a rearview mirror would be an acceptable alternative to a person serving as the spotter. The Ohio Marine Trades Association is opposed to this proposal for numerous safety reasons. The bill doesn’t take into account risk levels on different bodies of water and at different times of the season, nor skill level of the person being towed.

At an opponent hearing OMTA testified against it. Also there were 3 other pieces of written opponent testimony for the boating industry.

We hope the bill does not get any additional action based on the concerns we have effectively raised.

Water Safety Legislation

A bill was introduced recently that would require students to receive education in water safety. Under [House Bill 659](#), water safety means: “age-appropriate education intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of injury or drowning”. This educational information would be provided to students, via their parents, upon initial enrollment to the school.

Ohio Travel and Tourism Summit

OMTA was an active participant in the Ohio Travel and Tourism Summit put on by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. On the Water Ohio’s own video promoting boating and the connection to the Lake Erie was presented to attendees.

The event panel was focused on Cleveland with many panelists highlighting Lake Erie. They talked about Ohio’s shrinking population and ways to encourage growth. Access to the Lake and other recreation amenities are certainly a draw we should be highlighting to attract people to the region.

Statewide Boating Conference

Please save the date for a Statewide Boating Conference to be hosted by Ohio Marine TA on March 19, 2025. This event will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Columbus. It will feature an excellent line up of speakers and a luncheon with Ohio lawmakers.

Submitted by,

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