



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Safety Recommendation

Log M-35713

Date: December 5, 1989

In reply refer to: M-89-149

Major Randolph W. Dill  
President  
National Association of State Boating  
Law Administrators  
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Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

The National Transportation Safety Board has been committed to improving the safety of passenger vessels carrying U.S. passengers from U.S. ports. The Safety Board recently completed a study that reviewed safety issues for three board groups of vessels: domestic passenger vessels, foreign flag passenger vessels operating from U.S. ports and carrying U.S. passengers, and some State-regulated domestic passenger vessels.<sup>1/</sup>

Two of the safety issues examined in the study are the needs for (1) stability and safety equipment standards and (2) licensing of operators for passenger vessels operating on State (non-Federal) waters and for some passenger vessels carrying many passengers not for hire. The Safety Board believes that passenger safety would be greatly enhanced if States had safety programs addressing safety requirements for passenger vessels on State (non-Federal) waters. The Safety Board urges the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators to assemble all of the States' equipment, inspection, and licensing programs for passenger vessels operating exclusively on State waters and develop a uniform model program for the States without such safety programs. The Safety Board believes that State-regulated passenger vessels operating exclusively on State waters and some passenger vessels carrying many passengers not for hire should meet or exceed the same level of safety as passenger vessels operating under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Therefore, as a result of its study, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators:

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<sup>1/</sup> National Transportation Safety Board. 1989. Safety study: Passenger vessels operating from U.S. ports. NTSB/SS-89/01. Washington, DC. 175 p.

Develop and approve a uniform model passenger vessel safety program for passenger vessels operating exclusively on State waters and passenger vessels carrying passengers not for hire. (Class II, Priority Action) (M-89-149)

Also, as a result of its study, the Safety Board recognizes that on October 21, 1987, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators passed a resolution that States adopt the stability criteria contained in 46 CFR 171 for vessels over 20 feet in length that carry passengers for hire on sole State waters. This action satisfies the intent of the following safety recommendation issued to your organization:

M-79-16

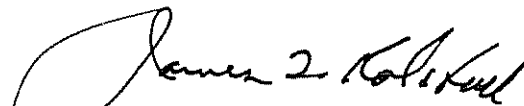
Amend the NASBLA model State Boating Act to require commercial small passenger vessels operating exclusively on State waters to meet the U.S. Coast Guard stability criteria in 46 CFR 171 for small passenger vessels.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board has classified Safety Recommendation M-79-16 as "Closed--Acceptable Alternate Action."

Also as a result of the safety study, the National Transportation Safety Board issued Safety Recommendations M-89-111 through -145 to the U.S. Coast Guard, M-89-146 to the National Association of Passenger Vessel owners, M-89-147 and -148 to the Cruise Line International Association, M-89-150 to cruise vessel owners and operators, M-89-151 to Washington State Ferries, and M-89-152 to the Governor and legislative leaders of the State of Washington.

The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent Federal agency with statutory responsibility "...to initiate and conduct special studies and special investigations on matters pertaining to safety in transportation...." (Public Law 93-633). The Safety Board is vitally interested in any actions taken as a result of its safety recommendations and would appreciate a response from you regarding action taken or contemplated with respect to the recommendation in this letter. Please refer to Safety Recommendation M-89-149 in your reply.

KOLSTAD, Acting Chairman, BURNETT, LAUBER, NALL, and DICKINSON, Members, concurred in this recommendation.



By: James L. Kolstad  
Acting Chairman