



---

[HF 389](#) – Boat Registration (LSB1249HV)  
Analyst: Debra Kozel (515.281.6767) [deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov)  
Fiscal Note Version – New

---

**Description**

[House File 389](#) makes changes to the boat registration process. A boat or vessel would be initially registered with the County Recorder in the county where the owner resides; however, the renewal process that occurs every three years could be completed at any county recorder office. To maintain the same vessel registration number, the renewal must be completed within 60 days of the expiration date of the registration. The Bill changes the registration deadline from May 1 to July 1, and late registrants must pay a \$5 penalty. The penalty is deposited into the Fish and Game Trust Fund.

**Background**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) completed the statewide recreational vehicle and vessel registration system in 2012. All transactions for recreational vehicles and vessels are processed by county recorders through the statewide system. Boat renewal fees are paid every three years, and renewal fees will be collected in FY 2019.

**Assumptions**

During the 2016 boat registration renewal process, there were 39,000 boat owners who were charged the \$5 late registration fee for a total of \$195,000 that was deposited into the Fish and Game Trust Fund. By moving the renewal deadline from May 1 to July 1, the DNR is assuming all registrations will be completed on time and there will be no penalties paid in FY 2019.

**Fiscal Impact**

The estimated fiscal impact of [House File 389](#) is a revenue reduction of \$195,000 to the Fish and Game Trust Fund for FY 2019. The number of boat or vessel owners likely to complete registrations after the new July 1 deadline cannot be estimated but is likely to be significantly reduced. Any late penalties will be deposited in FY 2020 and after.

**Sources**

Department of Natural Resources

---

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

February 21, 2019