

April 13, 1967

Place On Calendar

*Conservation and Recreation 5-9, Pass 6-2*

By COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION

Passed House, Date 5-8-67

Passed Senate, Date 6-7-67

Vote: Ayes 105 Nays 0

Vote: Ayes 48 Nays 0

Approved June 20, 1967

## A BILL FOR

An Act relating to the operation of watercraft for emergency purposes and in emergency situations.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 Section 1. Section one hundred six point two (106.2), Code  
2 1966, is hereby amended by adding the following new subsection:  
3 "'Authorized emergency vessel' means any vessel which is  
4 designated or authorized by the state conservation commission  
5 for use in law enforcement, search and rescue, and disaster  
6 work."

1 Sec. 2. Section one hundred six point twelve (106.12), Code  
2 1966, is hereby amended by adding the following new subsections:

3 1. "No person shall operate on the waters of this state  
4 under the jurisdiction of the conservation commission any ves-  
5 sel displaying or reflecting a blue light or flashing blue  
6 light unless such vessel is an authorized emergency vessel."

7 2. "No person shall operate a vessel and enter into areas  
8 in which search and rescue operations are being conducted unless  
9 authorized by the officer in charge of the search and rescue  
10 operation. Any person authorized in an area of operation shall  
11 operate his vessel at a no wake speed and shall keep clear of  
12 all other vessels engaged in the search and rescue operation."

1 Sec. 3. Chapter one hundred six (106), Code 1966, is hereby  
2 amended by adding the following new section:

3 "Upon approach of an authorized emergency vessel displaying  
4 a blue light or flashing blue light, the operator of every

5 other vessel shall stop and yield the right of way until the  
6 authorized vessel has passed. The provisions of this section  
7 shall not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency  
8 vessel from the duty to operate his vessel with due regard for  
9 the safety of all persons using the waters of this state, nor  
10 shall the provisions relieve the operator of any such vessel from  
11 liability from his negligence."

#### EXPLANATION

This bill defines an emergency vessel for use in law enforcement, search and rescue, and disaster work on waters of the state and designates means for distinguishing an authorized emergency vessel. The bill regulates the operation of an authorized emergency vessel and the operation of other watercraft when in areas of authorized emergency vessels or when in areas in which emergency operations are being conducted. The Iowa Code does not provide any regulation for the recognition and operation of emergency vessels on Iowa waters.

The proposed legislation has been recommended for adoption in all states by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.