

**Legislative Update**  
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The summer recess has begun for the members of the New Jersey Legislature and they are not expected to return until following the November elections. This long break is traditional as members of the Assembly focus their efforts on Election Day. There will be a flurry of activity between November and the end of the legislative session in January 2006, commonly known as the "lame duck session". Any bill not signed into law before the new Legislature is sworn into office in January 2006 is dead and will need to be reintroduced to start the process over again.

We have been working on a variety of bills for MTANJ prior to the summer recess, including:

**Styrene Tax Update:** The surcharge on styrene emissions was abolished with the passage of Assembly Bill 3667 in June. The repeal of this tax came within a year of its original passage and was overwhelmingly supported by members of the Legislature and Governor's Office. The Senate vote on June 27, 2005, like the Assembly vote on March 14, 2005, was unanimous. The elimination of this tax saved boat manufacturers in New Jersey's millions of extra combined tax payments. It was also a significant victory in light of the State's Budget deficit.

**Assembly Bill 2624:** The bill would establish mandatory boat safety classes for all New Jersey boaters. The bill remains held in the Assembly at the request of the MTANJ in order to address amendments made in the Senate that weaken the standards requested by the Association.

**Assembly Bill 3080:** The bill provides mandatory liability insurance for all boats in New Jersey. MTANJ has expressed a variety of concerns to the sponsor regarding the requirements of bill and he has expressed interest in considering a proposal to clean up the legislation. The bill remains held on second reading in the Assembly. No Senate version has been introduced prior to the recess.

**Senate Bill 654:** The bill amends current law by extending the distance, from 50 to 100 feet, a personal watercraft must maintain from beaches, persons in the water, other vessels and residences. The bill permits local police to enforce the law. The bill is awaiting final passage in the Assembly.

We will continue to work with the members of the Legislature and the Administration through the remainder of the year on issues of concern to the MTANJ and its members and to ensure that priorities and problems are addressed before "lame duck" begins.