

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STERN'S BOATING SAFETY INITIATIVE

SAILS THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE

"Suffolk's Safer Waterways Act" Passes Unanimously

HUNTINGTON, NY- Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) is proud to announce his legislation to help make Suffolk waterways safer passed the Legislature today. The legislation requires all boaters operating a pleasure vessel on Suffolk County Waterways to complete an approved boating safety course. This initiative would require boaters to possess and display their safety course certificate while boating and produce it upon request by law enforcement agencies in Suffolk County.

Legislator Stern stated, "Boating, sailing and fishing are some of the best parts of our centuries old traditions and culture. It brings families together for countless days of joy and excitement. A day on the water should be a pleasure, not one that ends in tragedy."

Unfortunately, according to the US Coast Guard, in 2011 the boating fatality rate increased by almost 15% over 2010. Of all fatalities, 70% drowned and of those, 84% were reported as not wearing a life jacket.

Legislator Stern said, "I would like to thank the leaders in the boating community, the Great South Bay Power Squadron, Coast Guard Auxiliary and especially Suffolk boaters, for helping create this legislation which will protect all of us who enjoy our beautiful waterways in Suffolk County."