

Inventory impacting Lake Tahoe housing market

By Mark Glover, Sacramento Bee

A lack of inventory has dragged down the Lake Tahoe real estate market through the first nine months of 2014, according to the Lake Tahoe, Nevada-based Chase International.

Through Sept. 30 this year, the sales volume of single-family homes around the lake was down 15 percent at \$727.4 million, compared with \$853.7 million in the year-ago period. Likewise, the number of units sold declined 19 percent in the same period, from 1,087 last year to 877 in 2014.

Year over year, Chase said the median sales price of a Lake Tahoe home is down 19 percent to \$472,000, but the average price was up 6 percent to \$829,502. Sales of homes priced at more than \$1 million were down 16 percent; sales of those sold for less than \$1 million were down 20 percent.

Read the whole story

SLT grappling with how to improve recreation

By Kathryn Reed

Even without a definitive recreation plan in place, South Lake Tahoe is moving forward with improvements.

This includes going ahead with a bike park at Bijou Community

Park. The topic will be discussed by the Planning Commission this week and will be before the City Council in November. Bike paths are being improved, Regan Beach enhancements are being discussed and ball fields are being upgraded.

But a lot more needs to take place if the area is ever going to live up to its moniker of being a year-round playground.



Improvements to Bijou Community Park are being talked about. Photo/LTN file

Much of the South Lake Tahoe City Council discussion on Oct. 7 was about the draft master recreation plan that the city and El Dorado County are taking comments on. But what each council member stressed is the need to make sure Douglas County is at the table. Douglas used the same consultant for its rec plan.

Lauren Thomaselli, parks manager, on Tuesday pointed out how the South Shore falls below the national average when it comes to providing adequate recreation facilities.

In the more than 1,600 responses the city and El Dorado County have received on the draft recreation master plan, trails continue to be an overriding issue for people. The problem is that they don't connect to one another, are disjointed and many are not in great shape.

The rec and swim center ranks high in terms of importance to people, but low when it comes to being a quality facility.

Another thing that keeps being pointed out is there needs to be a one-stop shop for people to find out what facilities exist on the South Shore, how to rent them, and when they are available.

While a master calendar would seem easy enough to devise, the problem is facilities are owned by various entities – including two K-12 districts, two counties, a college, one city, two states and private companies.

It's not just the 35,000 people who live on the South Shore who want to use the facilities, but the 1.6 million people who visit the area each year. It's a balancing act.

The council agreed the city should take the lead on bringing the parties together to create a gatekeeper type system. The electeds tasked staff with getting the stakeholders together and then asked for regular updates to be brought back.

Carol Chaplin, head of the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, said her agency is ready to be the major marketing arm for whatever the city goes forward with in terms of promoting recreation on the South Shore.

Wendy David, speaking as president of Lake Tahoe Unified School District, said the district wants to be at the table too. With the expanded sports medicine facilities at South Tahoe High School, she said this has generated interest in people wanting to bring larger and different types of recreation opportunities to the area.

In the two- to five-year span the city hopes to work on:

- Trail development
- Bike and pedestrian crossings
- Improve the swim-recreation center
- Improve Bijou Park

- Restore Regan Beach
- Upgrade Bijou Golf Course.

Funding to do these things could be the obstacle. Councilmember Brooke Laine more than once suggested dedicating a percentage of excess revenues to recreation capital improvement projects. Her colleagues did nothing with that suggestion.

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Notes:

- More info about the plan is online.
- The deadline to comment is Oct. 10.

Gay marriage ban falls in Nevada

By Dan Levine, Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — Legal momentum for extending U.S. marriage rights to same-sex couples accelerated on Tuesday as a federal appeals court in San Francisco struck down bans on gay matrimony in Idaho and Nevada a day after the U.S. Supreme Court let stand similar rulings for five other states.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled the bans in Idaho and Nevada violated the constitution and said they cannot be enforced, adding to a mounting list of states where same-sex unions are now legal.

The ruling binds all states in the court's region including

three that do not permit gay marriage, Arizona, Montana and Alaska, putting the United States on track for legalized gay marriage in 35 states.

Legal pressure mounted for further expansion of marriage rights in the wake of Monday's Supreme Court decision that ended bans in five states but left intact 20 others.

Read the whole story

California water officials not conserving

By Lance Williams and Katharine Mieszkowski, Center for Investigative Reporting

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Mike Soubious is a prodigious water user, pumping more than 1 million gallons per year at his lushly landscaped home on a hot, windy Southern California hilltop.

Soubious also is a member of the Riverside City Council, which in July voted unanimously to impose tough new water conservation rules in this desert city of 317,000.

Yet as California's drought worsened from 2012 to 2013, he consumed enough water to supply eight California households – more than any other top water official in the state, records show.

Soubious knows he should cut his water use to set a good example, he told The Center for Investigative Reporting. But he has a 1-acre lot with cascades of flowering shrubs and a weeping willow tree, and summer temperatures hit 100 degrees. Conservation isn't that simple, he said.

“Do I have to sell my house to set that example, or do I have to just abolish all my shrubs?” Soubirous said. “I don’t know what to do. I don’t know how I can reduce my water rate.”

Like Soubirous, many of the local officials urging the public to save water during California’s crippling drought actually are profligate water users themselves, a CIR investigation has found.

Water bills obtained via the state’s Public Records Act show that in 2013, nearly half of the officials who supervise the state’s biggest water agencies used more water than the typical California household.

And water officials tended not to cut back as the drought persisted. Even as their agencies scolded ratepayers on conservation, 60 percent of these officials used more water in 2013 than they had in 2012, records show.

Some officials used extraordinary amounts.

In addition to Soubirous, two other officials – a Fresno city councilman and a member of Riverside’s utilities board – pumped more than 1 million gallons in a single year during the drought, records show.

In 2013, eight other officials used more than 1,100 gallons per day. That’s triple the state’s average. Among them was Randy Record, chairman of the board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which recently launched an advertising blitz to persuade 19 million people to save water.

Fifteen additional officials used double the statewide rate. One was Ashley Swearengin, Republican candidate for state controller and incumbent mayor of Fresno, where residents are allowed to water lawns twice a week now and not at all in winter.

As the drought has worsened, local agencies have kept up a

steady public relations drumbeat, urging Californians to take shorter showers, limit car washing and even tear out their lawns in the name of conservation.

This summer, the state told local agencies to enforce tough new rules: Ratepayers can face \$500 fines for offenses such as permitting excess runoff from outdoor watering or cleaning sidewalks with hoses. Around the state, according to news reports, neighbors have begun reporting neighbors for wasting water.

When contacted, some water officials bemoaned how much they were spending on water and blamed undetected sprinkler leaks, overzealous gardeners or heavy use of the family swimming pool. All said conservation is important. All vowed to do better.

But not all are following their own water rules. Last month in Riverside, an NBC Los Angeles crew collaborating with CIR on this story witnessed sprinklers running seven nights in a row at Soubirous' home. Yet in July, Soubirous joined the council in forbidding watering more than four times a week. When asked about it, he acknowledged he might have unintentionally overwatered.

Trent Orr of the Earthjustice environmental law firm in San Francisco said the officials were "blatantly defying" the conservation ethos they impose on ordinary citizens.

"You should be leading by example," Orr said, "not telling the little people you regulate that they need to tighten their belts while you proceed as if nothing had happened and in fact use more water."

Water bills for most Californians are confidential. But bills for officials who set water rates and policies are public under the state's open records law. CIR obtained more than two years' worth for the elected and appointed officials who oversee 22 of the state's biggest water agencies – about 150

officials in all.

For comparison, a 2011 study commissioned by the state Department of Water Resources found that occupants of a single-family home in California use, on average, 361 gallons per day – or nearly 132,000 gallons a year.

North and south, Californians use about the same amount of water indoors, the study found. But Southern Californians use far more outdoors to keep their landscaping lush and swimming pools full. Overall, Northern California households use about 295 gallons per day, while Southern Californians use 523 gallons, according to the study.

CIR's analysis found a similar variance: Water-guzzling officials were concentrated in the drier, thirstier parts of the state – the Central Valley and hot inland areas in Southern California. Bay Area officials used far less: 255 gallons per day – slightly below the Northern California average.

In the Central Valley, where summers are scorching, water officials included in the CIR analysis averaged 855 gallons per day in 2013. The Central Valley's average use was less than 565 gallons. Because cities in the region have been slow to install residential water meters, bills weren't available for many officials.

Fresno City Councilman Oliver Baines said a horrendous malfunction in his sprinkler system made him a million-gallon user in 2013, the first year that water meters kept track in his west Fresno neighborhood.

Baines' first metered bill showed he used 4,000 gallons per day that month – about 11 times the state average. The city, which says it has the lowest water rates in California, charged him \$182.43 for that water.

One year and 1.24 million gallons later, Baines finally solved

what he called a “freak situation” involving his sprinklers: In the middle of the night, water would stream from defective sprinkler heads, flooding the yard. The ground became so saturated that a sinkhole opened up behind his house, he said.

After repairs, Baines used 149 gallons per day in March. But the memory still rankles.

“Well, you know, I apologize,” he said. “Clearly, I am not a model of water usage.”

Nobody in the valley rivaled Baines, though. Swearengin, Fresno’s mayor, averaged 850 gallons per day in 2013. She didn’t respond to a request for comment.

In Southern California, water officials averaged 541 gallons per day, exceeding both the state and regional rates. Officials in coastal cities tended to have far lower water bills than those in hotter inland areas.

Riverside Councilman Soubirous was the only official to use 1 million gallons in successive years, but he was not the only mega-user in the Inland Empire city, which has outlawed watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Andrew Walcker of the city Board of Public Utilities used 1 million gallons in 2012. In September 2012, he pumped 6,000 gallons per day – enough water for 16 households.

Walcker’s 2-acre property once was a grapefruit grove. Starting 18 months ago, he said he began a landscape makeover, installing a state-of-the-art sprinkler system and pulling out 12,000 square feet of lawn.

Water bills show Walcker’s use dropped by 35 percent in 2013 and is on a pace to drop 50 percent this year. Nevertheless, in June, he used more than 1,500 gallons per day, triple the Southern California average.

The other big Riverside user was utilities board member Nick

Ferguson. He used enough for six households in 2012 and slightly less in 2013.

Ferguson declined to be interviewed, but his bills may continue to decrease. In May, according to a news release, he won a \$10,000 Waterwise Landscape Makeover contest sponsored by the city and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. His prize: a turf-free front yard.

Big water bills also prevailed on the board of the Coachella Valley Water District, which supplies desert resort cities and golf courses near Palm Springs.

Water board President John Powell Jr. used 1,800 gallons per day in 2013 at his home on an Indian Wells golf course, slightly more than in 2012.

In an interview, Powell blamed his landscaper for favoring a green lawn over water conservation. Recently, Powell said he took drastic action: He locked up his irrigation timer to prevent overwatering.

He said he also replaced lawns with rock and artificial turf. He expects big savings. But through Aug. 27, his water use was down 4 percent from 2013, records show.

Fellow Coachella board member Peter Nelson used 1,500 gallons per day last year, a 10 percent increase over 2012. Nelson says a big water bill seems unavoidable in his home near the Palm Royale Country Club in La Quinta, where his son hosted his water polo team for weekly swim parties in the family's pool.

Also struggling to conserve water is Record, a Riverside County rancher and local water district official who was elected chairman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in May.

For years, the consortium of 26 Los Angeles-area water

agencies has promoted water conservation. Now, facing cutbacks from Northern California, it has redoubled its efforts. In May, Record and other Metropolitan Water District officials held a news conference to warn that if voluntary conservation measures fall short, water rationing would begin.

At his ranch house on the outskirts of San Jacinto, Record has a history of letting the water flow: In both 2012 and 2013, he used enough water to supply four families, with a summertime spike.

But this year, in the name of conservation, he told CIR that he has dramatically cut back, turning off the sprinklers for a “big part of our lawn.”

The result: In August, Record’s water bill was half what it was a year ago. But he still used 1,300 gallons per day – more than twice the Southern California average.

In the Bay Area, where summer nights can be cool and foggy, local water officials don’t use much water: 70 percent were under the state average in 2013.

The region’s biggest user was Martin Koller, vice president of the board of the Alameda County Water District. He used 604 gallons per day, double the regional rate. Koller said nine members of his extended family live with him, and his wife operates a day care center for 14 children out of the home. “That’s taxed our water usage,” he said.

Otherwise, Bay Area officials dominated the list of water misers among their peers.

The most miserly official in California was Eric Mar of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who lives in a condominium in the Inner Richmond district, part of the city’s fog belt. He used 45 gallons per day in 2013 – about enough to fill a bathtub.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee was not far behind: He used 53 gallons per day at his Glen Park home.

The mayor believes “conservation is a way of life,” said spokeswoman Christine Falvey, and he’s often out of town on official travel.

As a result, Lee had some extraordinarily low bills.

In July, he used 24 gallons per day – enough to wash a load of clothes. In March 2013, he used 12 gallons per day – the equivalent of one six-minute shower. And in December 2013, after trips to China and India, the mayor’s bill was even lower: zero gallons.

Actually, the zero is a billing anomaly, said Tyrone Jue, spokesman for the city Public Utilities Commission.

In San Francisco, water use is rounded off on monthly bills, he said. Customers get zeros when they don’t use enough water to make the meter tick – 748 gallons in a billing period. Their minimal use is carried over to the following month’s bills, Jue said.

There’s no way the mayor went an entire month without using a drop of water, Jue said. “Essentially, it is normal,” he said of the bill.

Editorial: Vote no on Measure F

Publisher’s note: Lake Tahoe News convened an editorial panel of seven community members to come up with this endorsement.

For 40 years, Lake Tahoe Community College has served the needs of the community through excellent programs, outstanding educators and what are now adequate or subpar facilities.

But we believe the leaders need to go back to the white board, crunch the numbers again, perhaps even take an analytics class to come up with another bond.

It's great to dream, have aspirations and a vision for the future. But if they are not shared dreams, aspirations and visions, then they likely will never come true.

Lake Tahoe News dreams of a successful, viable two-year institution that continues to thrive in South Lake Tahoe. We want students to have state-of-the-art equipment and roofs that don't leak. We want the college to be a centerpiece of the South Shore. We want the college to succeed and even be more than it is today. But Measure F is not the way to get there.

The \$55 million bond on the Nov. 4 ballot is the gold-plated version. It's a pie-in-the-sky approach to getting things we are not convinced the college or community need. We don't believe that just because you build it, they will come.

There is more than \$5 million in the bond project list for an environmental studies and sustainability center. Clearly, the environment is a big deal here – so is studying it based on all the agencies that call the basin home. But where is the proof that this discipline needs its own multimillion-dollar facility? (The total price is nearly \$16.8 million; with the rest of the money coming from the state.) Where are the statistics to prove we are losing enrollment by not having it or the figures that show LTCC would gain enrollment by having it?

If the college wants \$5.7 million of bond money to be spent on an \$18.5 million regional public safety training facility, maybe it should be working with the Legislature to get some of

the fire tax money that was hijacked by the state. Maybe the college should explain how its much heralded fire academy would benefit. And with the city of South Lake Tahoe recently upgrading its emergency operations center and the ability to use the police station (which is across the street from LTCC), the need for such a facility has not been demonstrated.

With online education growing, do we need more brick and mortar?

LTCC has many wonderful programs. Enhance and grow what is working before becoming more than you are. There is room for improvement for what exists today.

Officials say they want LTCC to be a destination college. How is this even possible when there is no housing for students? Student housing is not part of the bond despite the fact that in September 2013 during a daylong visioning session dorms were at the top of the list of desires from the community.

We are not convinced more buildings and programs will bring more enrollment. And if enrollment doesn't increase, what would be the point of such a significant outlay of money?

It's alarming that \$2.25 million of bond funds are allocated toward planning, including state and federal documents, and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency permits. Bond management is another \$1.75 million. We realize there is a cost to doing business – especially here – but that is 7 percent of the bond. And that \$4 million doesn't even account for the bond financial advisory services and bond legal counsel.

We believe the college should come back to voters with a downsized bond that looks less like a wish list and more like a needs list. We want to know our money is going for substance and not fluff.

We know the college needs to upgrade its technology, science lab and work on safety issues. These needs we believe are

things the voters should invest in.

While getting matching money from the state is great, sometimes it's OK to say no thank you.

We can't justify spending more taxpayer money on facilities when the college has clearly demonstrated it cannot maintain what it has. The college needs to get its house in order before it starts building new facilities.

For these reasons we urge voters to vote no on Measure F.

In virtual mega-drought, Calif. avoids defeat

By Bettina Boxall, Los Angeles Times

A few years ago a group of researchers used computer modeling to put California through a nightmare scenario: Seven decades of unrelenting mega-drought similar to those that dried out the state in past millennia.

"The results were surprising," said Jay Lund, one of the academics who conducted the study.

The California economy would not collapse. The state would not shrivel into a giant, abandoned dust bowl. Agriculture would shrink but by no means disappear.

Traumatic changes would occur as developed parts of the state shed an unsustainable gloss of green and dropped what many experts consider the profligate water ways of the 20th century. But overall, "California has a remarkable ability to weather extreme and prolonged droughts from an economic

perspective,” said Lund, director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences.

The state’s system of capturing and moving water around is one of the most expansive and sophisticated in the world. But it is based on a falsehood.

“We built it on the assumption that the last 150 years is normal. Ha! Not normal at all,” cautioned paleoclimate expert Scott Stine, a professor emeritus of geography and environmental science at Cal State East Bay.

“The weather record that we tend to depend on in California for allocating water ... is based on about 150 years of really quite wet conditions when you look back at, say, the last 8,000 years or so,” Stine said.

He found evidence of two extreme droughts in ancient tree stumps rooted in the state’s modern lake beds. The trees could have grown only when shorelines beat a long retreat during medieval mega-droughts lasting a century or more.

Read the whole story

Law aims to rid farmers markets of cheaters

By David Karp, Los Angeles Times

Bringing to fruition a decade-long campaign by farmers market stakeholders, Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB1871, which for the first time provides what supporters say is adequate funding to

ensure that growers at certified farmers markets produce what they sell.

“This is the single-most significant change to farmers market laws since they were established in 1977,” said Ben Feldman, chair of the California Alliance of Farmers’ Markets.

Starting Jan. 1, 2015, the bill will increase the state fee paid by markets for their vendors from 60 cents to \$2 daily. Currently only farmers pay the fee, but next year it will extend to all vendors, including food and crafts sellers in non-agricultural sections.

Legislative analysts have estimated that the bill will raise \$1.35 million annually, including more than \$1 million in new revenues, which will go to the California Department of Food and Agriculture. It will be used chiefly for hiring new state inspectors and reimbursing counties for local investigative work, as well as maintaining a database of markets and growers.

Across the state, consumers should see more inspectors at farmers markets. As cheaters are caught and fined or suspended from participation, shoppers will have greater confidence that the farms they buy from really grew the produce. In the short term, they may also see a reduction in the quantity and variety of produce at certain markets, as cheating becomes more difficult.

Read the whole story

Shared space brings solo workers together



Shared and individual desks are available at Tahoe Mountain Lab depending on membership. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

Boss doesn't believe you'll work in Tahoe? Mom doesn't believe you'll meet anyone being self-employed? Spouse wonders how the home office is suddenly so neat?

Tahoe Mountain Lab may prove working on vacation isn't so stuff, that like-minded entrepreneurs flock together, and working independently and alone are two very different things.

It is tucked along Ski Run Boulevard in a two-story building that opened in June with the sole purpose of bringing freelancers, self-employed people, and others together.

No cubicle to contend with on these premises. Desks are more like butcher block tables. Some are pushed together to make a

foursome, while others are solitary. No problem for those needing to stand to work. Your desk is in one of the corners.

Chairs swivel and are adjustable so the worker can be ergonomically correct.

Most people bring their own phones, but there is one in the conference room if need be. And for the loud talkers there is what looks like an old-fashioned telephone booth so they can duck into it so everyone has privacy.

Probably the most important thing to people is the Internet connection. Charter built-out a high-speed line specifically for Tahoe Mountain Lab.

Shared workspaces are no longer the corner coffeeshop. They've evolved into an office environment.



Jesse Walker, David Orr and
Jamie Orr

The South Lake Tahoe enclave is the brainchild of Jesse Walker, David Orr and Jamie Orr. They had similar ideas, pulled their resources and opened what is now a bevy of activity. But they still have their “real” jobs – urban planning consultant, general manager of Startup & Tech Mixer, and college science professor, respectively.

They know what it's like to work from home. It's not always as idyllic as it sounds. A little structure can be good. Because they knew they weren't alone and had experienced workspaces elsewhere, they were sure Tahoe would be a good fit.

"It was hard to work in a home office where you don't want to bring people to," Jamie Orr said.

Walker, who was born and raised on the South Shore, had spent enough time away to solidify his career to where he could work at home. A small baby proved more than he could handle on a regular basis and get work done.

The Orrs moved here about three years ago, also understand the young child scenario, and soon started looking for alternatives.

Tahoe Mountain Lab is now a different kind of baby for all of them.

They equate membership in the lab to like being at a gym. There is full membership, part and drop in. The first two come with a key so people can work any hour. Full-time membership includes a place to store some belongings for the long haul.

Eventually, the goal would be some of these businesses will get so big they will need to find their own brick and mortar location. To the lab owners, that would be a success story.

To help ward against any unsavory characters, everyone must sign a code of conduct.

For those who need a little more space there is room to rent upstairs on a monthly basis. They are private, can be locked and allow a business to have more a permanent space. Sierra Nevada Alliance, Sage Engineers and Spatial Informatics Group are some of the companies calling the lab home.

A small conference room may be rented by anyone. It also comes with video- and teleconferencing capabilities.

While mostly it's locals who are filling the lab, a number of second homeowners and tourists drop in.

But like any good workplace, it's not just about work. The

trio is creating social opportunities for people – just like a traditional workplace would do.

Tahoe Mountain Lab plans to partner with other shared workspaces in the mountains so the respective members can benefit when they travel. The closest space to South Lake Tahoe is in Alpine Meadows.

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Notes:

- Tahoe Mountain Lab is online.
- Phone: 530.600.3447.
- Address: 1048 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.
- Prices: \$250/month membership, \$150 for 10 days, \$20 to drop in.

Tough subjects become a teaching moment

By Ovetta Wiggins, Washington Post

Just days after a teenager unfurled a Confederate flag at a high school football game in Howard County, Md., teachers began reworking lesson plans to discuss the student's display and the school's decision to discipline him.

Their talking points: What is free speech? How is the action different from the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that

allowed several students to wear black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War? What does the flag represent? Why does it mean such different things to different people?

“It felt like a good time to talk about the issue,” said Callie Casper, a government and human geography teacher at River Hill High School. “Some kids wanted to talk about it, sometimes I brought it up.”

Teachers across the country routinely must delve into racially sensitive topics such as the display of the Confederate flag and the recent killing of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Mo. They also tackle politically charged subjects such as same-sex marriage and immigration reform. It is a fine line to walk, they say, as they try not to offer their own personal views while provoking critical thinking about the issues everyone is talking – and tweeting – about.

“It is a part of what social studies teachers do. They address topics as they come up naturally through class discussion, related to current events, and as a part of the curriculum,” said Mark J. Stout, a curriculum coordinator for the Howard County Public School System. Stout sent an e-mail to social studies teachers in the school district to discuss lesson plans around the Confederate flag incident. Stout included the school system’s policy on teaching controversial issues, the superintendent’s statement calling the flag a “powerful symbol of racism, hatred, and unspeakable acts against humanity” and news articles.

Read the whole story

California boater safety law approved

By Parimal M. Rohit, The Log

A recently approved law in California aims to finally address the state's loose governance of recreational boaters navigating its many waterways. Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a boater safety bill requiring all boaters in California to be in possession of a vessel operator card and pass a safety course.

While the new law will help shore up safety concerns on California's waterways, there are many common sense and basic steps recreational boaters and other aquatic users can take to ensure a safe coexistence.

Co-authored by state senators Bill Monning, D-Carmel, and Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, Senate Bill 941 specifically requires recreational boaters to pass a sanctioned boating education course and obtain a vessel operator card in order to operate a motorized boat.

Both Monning and DeSaulnier pushed the bill as promoting boater safety and helping prevent common accidents.

Read the whole story