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Senate BILL NO. *320*

INTRODUCED BY *Thomas*-----

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT RESTRICTING NOISE LEVELS FOR MOTORBOATS AND AUTHORIZING BOAT RACES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Noise restrictions. (1) All motorboats shall have engines equipped with mufflers sufficient to meet the noise levels prescribed in this section. The use of cutouts is prohibited.

(2) No person may operate a motorboat upon the waters of this state under any condition or in any manner that causes the motorboat to exceed a sound level of 86 dbA measured at 50 feet. The commission shall adopt procedures for the measurement of sound levels. The commission may adopt and revise sound level limitations for all motorboats, but a sound level limitation adopted or revised by the commission may not be higher than the limitation specified in this section.

(3) Motorboats competing in a regatta or boat race authorized as provided in [section 2] are exempt from the sound level limitations prescribed in this section.

Section 2. Boat races. (1) The sponsor or person in charge of a regatta or boat race shall, at least 15 days

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prior to the event, file an application with the commission for permission to hold the regatta or boat race.

(2) The application shall set forth the date, time, location, and other information that the commission may require.

(3) The permit shall be issued in writing by the commission prior to the regatta or boat race.

(4) The provisions of this section do not exempt any person from compliance with applicable federal law or regulation. However, this section does not require the securing of a state permit if a permit for a regatta or boat race is obtained from an authorized agency of the United States.

--End--