



**RYAN GUILLEN**  
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MARCH 28, 2017

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**GUILLEN PLAN IMPROVES SAFETY ON  
TEXAS WATERWAYS**

*Measure Requires Sound-producing Devices on All Aquatic Vessels*

**AUSTIN** – Close collaboration by State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) and Texas Parks and Wildlife officials led to the creation of HB 550, now under review at the state legislature. This bill will further align Texas law with Coast Guard regulations, and affectively make our waterways safer for all. A public hearing for HB 550 took place on **Tuesday, March 28.**

**"By expanding standard U.S. Coast Guard safety measures to all vessels, we can make our waterways safer for all who use them," said Guillen.**

When weather conditions reduce visibility on the water, vessels need to be able to warn others nearby to avoid dangerous situations. Mandating that all vessels follow U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations would prevent accidents from occurring, and provide boaters a way to draw attention in case of emergency. Changing state law to hold motorized and non-motorized vessels to the same safety standards is a huge step towards fostering a safe environment for all waterway users in Texas.

**"Creating a safe environment on Texas waterways is vitally important to their continued recreational use," said Representative Guillen.**

On Tuesday, March 28, HB 550 was scheduled for a hearing in the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee. Representative Guillen strongly urges that we continue to review and update our current safety standards for watercrafts, and continue to provide safety to all Texans.

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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