

Hello Fellow Amphibians!

This is an update on action that the IAOC has taken on behalf of all Amphicar owners who may become affected by vehicle regulations which may result from Senator Josh Hawley's (R Missouri) "Duck Boat Safety Enhancement Act of 2019". This Act was introduced into the US Senate a few days ago and is now in Committee.

Senator Hawley's Act, as presently worded, could be taken to apply to all types of Amphibious Personal Vehicles (APV's as defined by existing USCG regulations) despite a general focus on large, commercial tourist operators (typically the DUKW or Amphi-Terra operators). The impetus for this Act was the tragic sinking of a DUKW vehicle last year in Table Rock Lake, near Branson, Missouri, resulting 17 deaths and 7 serious injuries. In the past two decades alone, there have been several Duck style amphibians that have sunk with attendant loss of about 40 lives. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table\\_Rock\\_Lake\\_duck\\_boat\\_accident](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_Rock_Lake_duck_boat_accident)

After reading the Act, your IAOC Board has become convinced that a literal enforcement of this Act could result in it being applied to Amphicars. As written, the Act's prescriptions would be nigh-impossible to implement on Amphicars. This would result in Amphicars being unlicenseable by all State DMV's, and that would likely result in the value of these collectible vehicles suffering a considerable decline.

An extensive search has yielded zero incidents of deaths or serious injuries caused by an Amphicar sinking, despite hundreds of Amphicars having been in continuous use in the USA for nearly 60 years. Thus, from our understanding of the Act's intentions, the incompatibility of the Act's technical prescriptions with Amphicars and the excellent safety record of Amphicars, the IAOC Board prepared an input to Senator Hawley, requesting that his Act be clarified to focus on the large commercial vehicles which have given rise to the need for his new legislation.

While we have not talked directly with Senator Hawley, his staff seemed receptive and welcoming to our comments. We will try to keep you apprised of what becomes of this Act, especially if it appears that further input would be beneficial.

I am attaching a PDF of the Act (as introduced) as well as a one-page synopsis of its key points. I am also attaching a DOCX file of the IAOC's letter to Senator Hawley in which we explain how the IAOC thinks that Amphicars should not be covered by his Act and suggesting new wording that would clarify that. Lastly, I have also attached one NTSB file and one USCG PDF file containing information on APV's that you might find interesting.



***Ed Price***

**IAOC Membership Registrar**

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