

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7909**  
**BILL NUMBER:** SB 626

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 21, 2005  
**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 17, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Riverboats.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Clark  
**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Whetstone

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed - Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) The bill provides that a riverboat operating in a county along Lake Michigan or the Ohio River must have either a valid certificate of inspection from the United States Coast Guard or a valid certification of compliance issued by the Gaming Commission that the riverboat complies with recognized marine structural and life safety standards adopted by the Gaming Commission.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) *Riverboat Inspection:* The bill would allow a riverboat casino on Lake Michigan or the Ohio River to continue operating provided it has a valid certificate of compliance issued by the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC) that the riverboat complies with recognized marine structural and life safety standards adopted by the IGC. This certificate would be in lieu of the certificate of inspection (required under current statute) for carrying at least 500 passengers from the U. S. Coast Guard. As is the case with current Coast Guard inspections, the full cost of the alternative structural and life safety inspection presumably would be paid by the riverboat owner.

The U. S. Coast Guard issued a notice on June 21, 2004, in the Federal Register indicating that it intends to discontinue inspecting and issuing certificates of inspection for vessels that do not get under way or have difficulty getting under way (a permanently moored vessel). The proposed rules are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2006. According to the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC) some jurisdictions have utilized third party inspections with retired Coast Guard inspectors using Coast Guard inspection standards.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Gaming Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** American Gaming Association, <http://www.americangaming.org>.

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