



2011 SENATE BILL 59

April 12, 2011 – Introduced by Senator KEDZIE, cosponsored by Representative MURSAU. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 30.12 (1k) (b) 3. of the statutes; **relating to:** the deadline for
2 registering certain piers and wharves with the Department of Natural
3 Resources.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with certain exceptions, no person may deposit any material or place any structure upon the bed of any navigable water where no bulkhead line has been established or, if a bulkhead line has been established, beyond that established line unless the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grants that person a permit. A bulkhead line is a line established by a municipality in the public interest that conforms as nearly as practicable to an existing shore.

Under current law, a riparian owner is exempt from obtaining a permit in order to place a pier or wharf on the bed of a navigable water if the riparian owner meets certain requirements. A pier or wharf qualifies for a permitting exemption if it is placed in an area other than an area of special natural resource interest, if it does not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners, if it meets certain size requirements, and if it has fewer than a specified number of boat slips (general pier exemption). The general pier exemption prohibits a pier or wharf from being more than six feet wide but allows the pier or wharf to have an area as a loading platform that is up to eight feet wide provided that the platform meets certain configuration requirements.

In addition to the general pier exemption, current law exempts from the permit requirement certain piers and wharves that were placed in the water on or before

