

**Senator Ben Stevens**  
Senate Majority Leader



## Sponsor Statement

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**CSSB 209 (L&C), “An Act relating to exemption of certain foreign pleasure craft from the mandatory pilotage requirements”**

[SB 209](#) authorizes an exemption from marine pilotage in Alaskan waters for certain foreign registered pleasure craft. A recent Legislative Budget and Audit Committee audit report supports these changes. This legislative audit ([#08-20015-02 November 1, 2002](#)) states under Recommendation No. 4, “The Board of Marine Pilots should seek statutory authority to allow the board the discretion to grant waivers of pilotage requirements to large pleasure craft.”

In this legislation, vessels of 60’ or less will be exempted from all pilotage laws. Yachts greater than 60’ and less than 173’ may be granted a waiver from pilotage after an application process and review by the Board of Marine Pilots or their designee. A fee based on the size of the vessel will be charged for each application. For example, the smallest yacht at 61’ would pay \$1500.00; a 100’ vessel \$3500; and the largest 173’ boat \$7150.00

Even if granted a waiver, upon entering pilotage waters, these yachts must employ a pilot from the first pilot station into the initial port of entry in each pilotage region. The same procedure will be followed as the vessels leave Alaska pilotage waters. These vessels must work with an agent licensed in Alaska. The legislation also authorizes a civil penalty of \$10,000 for any violation of the Act.

The intent of SB 209 is to accomplish the recommendation identified in the Budget and Audit report and provide Alaskan coastal communities with increased tourism opportunities.

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