

Illinois Boater's Bill of Rights

1. A recreational boat on the waters of Illinois shall not be stopped without reasonable and articulable suspicion by Illinois sworn law enforcement.
2. A boat on the waters of Illinois at anchor, not under power, shall enjoy the reasonable expectations of privacy and 4th Amendment protections as any other domicile in the state of Illinois.
3. Boaters shall be given the opportunity to have an annual Coast Guard safety level inspection. Upon successful completion of said inspection, a sticker for that boat shall be issued which shall demonstrate clearly to law enforcement that said boat is in safety compliance for that boating season and thus negate any authority to conduct a safety inspection absent other relevant factors.
4. Law enforcement on the waters of Illinois shall not risk the safety of themselves and others on the waters of Illinois by operating at night or when conditions merit without proper illumination and lighting as required for all other vessels operating on the waters of Illinois.
5. For the purposes of Operating Under the Influence enforcement, it is necessary and proper for law enforcement to establish that the accused was 1) at the helm of a boat, thus in control of the vessel, 2) that said boat was not at anchor, and 3) the vessel's motor of that boat was in active operation.
6. A boater has every right to be secure in their boat and personal property and shall not be boarded without reasonable, articulable cause by law enforcement.
7. A boater on the waters of Illinois does not, simply by being on the majestic waters of Illinois, waive any of the protections afforded to all under the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Illinois.