



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 12 December 2018

SUBJECT: Public Chapter 179, Acts of 2017 (Boat Titling)—Update

At the January 2018 meeting, the Commission approved the final report on boat titling, which was prepared in response to Public Chapter 179, Acts of 2017. The Commission's report recommended that the state should establish a boat titling system and provided further recommendations regarding how a potential boat titling system could be administered. But because three key stakeholders—the county clerks, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and the Tennessee Department of Revenue (TDoR)—did not all agree about which state agency should administer a potential boat titling system, the Commission recommended that these three stakeholders continue to work together to determine an effective and agreed upon way to administer such a system in Tennessee and report back to the Commission in December 2018.

Since the January 2018 Commission meeting, TACIR staff continued to discuss the options for administrating a boat titling system with the parties, including several conference calls and a meeting between the three parties on June 13, 2018. TACIR staff facilitated the meeting. But none of the parties have changed their position. The TWRA—which administers boat registration—and the TDoR both recommend that boat titling, and boat registration be administered by the TWRA. Representatives for county clerks have expressed interest in the clerks performing a similar role with boat titling as they currently do with motor vehicle titling but only if boat titling is administered by the TDoR because of its administrative experience with motor vehicle titling and its effective working relationship with the clerks.