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Opinion
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Details on 3B

'Trey Altick Bill' to be introduced

Accidents on water would be investigated

By Barbara Leader
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State Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Robert Barham is working with area legislators to introduce a bill in the upcoming legislative session to require substance-abuse

testing after serious injury or death involving watercraft.

Barham told *The News-Star* editorial board Wednesday that the legislation he calls "The Trey Altick Bill" will be authored and introduced in the Senate by Bob Kostelka, R-Monroe, and in the House of Representatives by Mert Smiley, R-Port Vincent.

Trey Altick, 15, of Monroe, died May 21, following a per-

sonal watercraft accident in which he was a passenger on Bayou DeSiard. Although Kostelka said it is not known that alcohol was a factor in the accident; law at the time did not require the driver to be tested.

"I've talked with both Dr. and Mrs. (Helena) Altick, and they were both interested in the law being changed," Kostelka said.

Barham said Trey Altick's accident served as the moti-



Barham

vation to amend the law.

"In no way are we saying that alcohol was involved in

this accident," Barham said. "We are just using this bill to honor a life well lived in Trey."

Helena Altick said her hope is that the bill will help ensure that future fatalities in the water are treated the same way as those on roads.

Barham told the editorial board that all indications are Gov. Bobby Jindal will support in the bill.

Barham also discussed plans for streamlining the

process for applying for licenses through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

"I've got a plan, and I'm working hard to sell it," Barham said. "My plan is for a very simple license system with a small number of combinations of licenses available for a low price."

Barham is also seeking to change the annual June 30 expiration date on licenses to one year from date of pur-