

Bill promotes water safety

It may be a small step, but it's a step in the right direction. That's what the Altick Bill, named for former Neville High student Trey Altick, represents.

That Monroe youngster, just 15, died in a personal watercraft accident on Bayou DeSiard in May 2008. Trey's parents suspected alcohol might have been involved in the accident, but state law made no provisions for testing those involved in the accident for alcohol consumption.

That will change if Gov. Bobby Jindal signs into law the Altick Bill, introduced by Sen. Robert Kostelka, R-Monroe. Trey's mother, Helena, said Tuesday that the bill, which provides for alcohol or drug testing in boating accidents that result in death or serious injury, has passed the Senate.

The bill may give some folks pause before they take undue risks on the water. If the bill saves a single life, if it causes a single person to rethink foolhardy actions, it will have served us all well.

The editorials in this column represent the opinions of *The News-Star's* editorial board, composed of President and Publisher David B. Petty, Executive Editor Kathy Spurlock, Managing Editor Ken Stickney, community representatives Dr. Wayne Brumfield, Alana Cooper and Kenny Solley and newsroom representative Matt Hamilton.