



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 285

LCO No. 1885

01885_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND CHILDREN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 15-140j of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "personal watercraft" is any inboard
4 powered vessel less than sixteen feet in length which has an internal
5 combustion engine powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of
6 motor propulsion and which is designed to be operated by a person
7 sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional
8 manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

9 (b) On and after June 23, 1993, no person shall operate a personal
10 watercraft unless he has successfully completed a course in safe
11 personal watercraft handling approved by the Commissioner of
12 Environmental Protection and has been issued a certificate of personal
13 watercraft operation by the Commissioner of Environmental
14 Protection. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the
15 commissioner may modify or suspend requirements for a certificate of
16 personal watercraft operation by written authorization with respect to

17 any marine event authorized by the commissioner or upon receipt of a
18 copy of the United States Coast Guard authorization for a marine
19 event.

20 (c) The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the
21 provisions of chapter 54 establishing the content of courses in safe
22 personal watercraft handling. Such regulations may include provisions
23 for examinations, issuance of certificates of personal watercraft
24 operation and establishment of a reasonable fee for such course and
25 examination and for the issuance of a certificate and duplicate
26 certificate. Any fee collected pursuant to regulations adopted under
27 this section shall be deposited in the boating account established
28 pursuant to section 15-155.

29 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, any person who
30 purchases a new or used personal watercraft after May 20, 1994, may,
31 upon vessel registration, apply to the Commissioner of Environmental
32 Protection for a temporary certificate of personal watercraft operation
33 which shall be valid for six months from the date of registration,
34 provided the applicant has successfully completed a course in safe
35 personal watercraft handling prior to application for the temporary
36 certificate. No person shall be issued more than one temporary
37 certificate of personal watercraft operation.

38 (e) The commissioner may enter into a reciprocal agreement with
39 any other state which has a similar safe personal watercraft handling
40 certificate program which the commissioner deems acceptable for
41 purposes of this subsection. Any person who successfully completes a
42 course in safe personal watercraft handling and holds a certificate or
43 license from another state which has such a reciprocal agreement with
44 the commissioner may operate a personal watercraft on the waters of
45 this state.

46 (f) Any person required to obtain a certificate of personal watercraft
47 operation pursuant to this section shall have such certificate on board
48 at all times while operating a personal watercraft. On demand of an

49 officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter, such person
50 shall exhibit the certificate to the officer.

51 (g) No person shall operate a personal watercraft with any other
52 person under six years of age sitting, standing or kneeling on such
53 personal watercraft.

54 [(g)] (h) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall
55 be fined not less than sixty dollars nor more than two hundred fifty
56 dollars for each such violation.

57 [(h)] (i) A certificate of personal watercraft operation may be
58 suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of section 15-
59 133, 15-140l or 15-140n.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2006	15-140j

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit children under the age of six from riding on personal watercraft.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]