



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 357

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 5811

House of Representatives, April 4, 2013

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GENTILE of the 104th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF VESSELS WITH ELECTRIC MOTORS ON INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 15-140e of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (a) No resident of the state, person owning real property in the state
5 or person owning a vessel in the state shall operate on the waters of the
6 state a vessel which is required to be registered or numbered pursuant
7 to this chapter unless such person has a valid vessel operator license
8 issued by the United States Coast Guard or has obtained a safe boating
9 certificate issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
10 Protection. No owner of a vessel shall knowingly authorize or permit a
11 person who is less than sixteen years of age who is required by this
12 section to obtain a safe boating certificate issued by the Commissioner
13 of Energy and Environmental Protection to operate such vessel on the
14 waters of the state without a safe boating certificate, unless such

15 person is under the direct onboard supervision of a person who is at
 16 least eighteen years of age who has been issued a safe boating
 17 certificate and who has held such certificate for at least two years. A
 18 safe boating certificate may be suspended or revoked, pursuant to
 19 section 15-132a, 15-133, 15-140l or 15-140n, and shall be valid for the
 20 life of the person to whom it is issued unless otherwise suspended or
 21 revoked. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person
 22 who operates a vessel propelled exclusively by an electric motor on the
 23 inland waters of this state upon which motor powered vessels
 24 exceeding ten horsepower are prohibited.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	15-140e(a)

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Loss	Approximately 10,000	Approximately 10,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows people to operate electric motor boats without having a safe boating certificate from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This would result in a revenue loss of approximately \$10,000 annually as it would no longer require that certain boaters obtain the \$50 safe boating certificate. In FY 12, there were 219 of these certificates issued, generating \$10,950 in revenue.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of licenses issued.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5811*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF VESSELS WITH ELECTRIC MOTORS ON INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows people, in certain circumstances, to operate electric motor boats without having a safe boating certificate from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or a valid operator license from the U.S. Coast Guard. It applies to a person who operates a boat with an electric motor on inland Connecticut waters where motor powered boats exceeding 10 horsepower are prohibited.

Under the bill, those same people can allow a child younger than 16 years old to operate the electric motor boat without a safe boating certificate. Under current law, boat owners cannot knowingly allow a child to operate a boat unless the child has a safe boating certificate or is being supervised by a person age 18 or older who has a safe boating certificate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/18/2013)