



House of Representatives

File No. 823

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

(Reprint of File No. 357)

House Bill No. 5811
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 17, 2013

***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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*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, between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset,
 23 operates a vessel propelled exclusively by an electric motor that is
 24 rated at one hundred six pounds of thrust or less on the inland waters
 25 of this state upon which motor powered vessels exceeding ten
 26 horsepower are prohibited.

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

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 obtaining 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 have the \$50 safe boating certificate. In FY 12, there were 219 of these certificates issued, generating \$10,950 in revenue.

House "A" alters the original bill by expanding the exemption under the bill under certain conditions. This is not anticipated to alter the fiscal impact identified above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5811 (as amended by House "A")******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 between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset with an electric motor that is rated at 106 pounds of thrust or less on inland Connecticut waters where motor 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.

*House Amendment "A" adds the limitations that (1) a person must operate the boat between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset and (2) the electric motor must be rated at 106 pounds of thrust or less.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/18/2013)