

April 15, 1999

H 1209. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY. TO IMPROVE BOATING SAFETY BY AMENDING THE STATE LAW REGULATING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATION TO CONFORM WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS AND TO OTHERWISE IMPROVE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY. Amends GS 75A-13.3 on personal watercraft as follows. Prohibits operation of personal watercraft after sunset and before sunrise (was, one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise). Continues to allow person age 13 or older but under age 16 to operate personal watercraft but requires person to be accompanied by someone at least 18 years old (was, 16). Requires person under age 16 to carry identification and boater safety certification card while operating personal watercraft and to produce identification and certification card on request of wildlife or local law enforcement officer; provides that violation is infraction under amended GS 75A-18. Requires livery that rents personal watercraft to public to carry liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000; provides that violation is Class 2 misdemeanor, punishable by fine up to \$1,000 under amended GS 75A-18. Requires persons operating personal watercraft to wear type I, II, III, or V flotation device and provides that inflatable flotation devices do not satisfy this requirement. Prohibits towing of another person behind personal watercraft unless an observer is on board in addition to the operator and the number of persons on the personal watercraft does not exceed the maximum number of persons recommended by the manufacturer. Prohibits jumping of wake of another vessel within 100 feet of vessel (was, when unreasonably or unnecessarily close). Prohibits operating personal watercraft at greater than no-wake speed in areas specified in new GS 75A-13.3(e)(4); also prohibits operating personal watercraft contrary to rules of road and following too closely as defined in new GS 75A-13.3(e)(5). Repeals subsection (g) of GS 75A-13.3, which limited application of section to certain waters within state; also repeals GS 75A-13.2, the current section on personal watercraft.

Intro. by Preston.

Ref. to Wildlife Resources

GS 75A

April 27, 1999

H 1209. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY. Intro. 4/15/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Deletes provision that operation of a PWC by any person under 16 is an infraction pursuant to GS 14-3.1, and changes effective date to Dec. 1, 1999.

April 28, 1999

H 1209. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY. Intro. 4/15/99. House amendments make the following changes to 2nd edition. Adds provision to GS 75A-13.3(d1) allowing towing of another person if the watercraft is equipped with a rear view mirror. Rewrites subsection (c1) to require insurance providing coverage of not less than \$300,000 per occurrence against liability for injury arising out of the rental of personal watercraft (was, insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million).

June 10, 1999

H 1209. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY. Intro. 4/15/99. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Revises proposed GS 75A-13.3(c1) to make it unlawful to rent personal watercraft to the public unless the renter has secured insurance for his own liability and that of the rentee of not less than \$300,000 per occurrence for injury arising out of the rental of personal watercraft. Adds proposed GS 75A-13.3(h) to provide that nothing in this section prohibits other units of government from regulating personal watercraft to the extent allowed by law.

July 14, 1999

H 1209. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY. Intro. 4/15/99. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 4th edition. Rewrites portion of the bill concerning local regulations. Now provides that the bill does not prohibit local authorities from regulating personal watercraft (was, "proscribing or regulating") if the regulations are more restrictive than State regulations or regulate aspects of operation not addressed by State regulation. Local authority adopting such regulations must post conspicuous signs to that effect.