

FEB 3 1999

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE
BY GARMAN

192

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the age of personal watercraft operators,
2 subjecting violators to a penalty, and providing an effective
3 date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 192

1 Section 1. Section 462A.2, Code 1999, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 22A. "Personal watercraft" means a
4 vessel, less than sixteen feet in length, which is propelled
5 by a water jet pump or similar machinery as its primary source
6 of motor propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person
7 sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than by a
8 person sitting, standing, or kneeling inside the vessel.

9 Sec. 2. Section 462A.12, subsection 6, Code 1999, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 6. No An owner or operator of any vessel propelled by a
12 motor of more than six horsepower shall not permit any person
13 under twelve years of age to operate such vessel except when
14 accompanied by a responsible person of at least eighteen years
15 of age who-is-experienced-in-motorboat-operation. However, a
16 person who is under fourteen years of age shall not operate
17 and an owner shall not permit a person under fourteen years of
18 age to operate a personal watercraft except when accompanied
19 by a responsible person of at least eighteen years of age.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on May 15,
21 1999.

22 EXPLANATION

23 This bill defines personal watercraft and prohibits a
24 person who is under 14 years of age from operating a personal
25 watercraft unless accompanied by a responsible person at least
26 18 years of age. A person violating this prohibition is
27 guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled
28 violation under Code section 805.8, subsection 3, paragraph
29 "c". Code chapter 232, relating to juvenile justice, has no
30 application in the prosecution of violators who are less than
31 18 years of age. This bill takes effect May 15, 1999.

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