

Kettering, chair  
Klemme  
Mundie

**HSB 63**  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Succeeded By

SENATE/HOUSE FILE HF/LC 607  
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES BILL)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the operation, regulation, and equipment of  
2 watercraft, establishing watercraft safety courses, and  
3 subjecting violators to a penalty.

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

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

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 12A. "Lanyard" means a cord, rope, or  
4 wire which connects an operator to a motorboat or motorized  
5 vessel and is designed to stop the motor when disconnected.

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

13 Sec. 2. Section 462A.6A, subsection 4, Code 1999, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 4. A sailboard. ~~However, the registration decal shall be~~  
16 ~~attached to the bottom surface of the bow.~~

17 Sec. 3. Section 462A.9, subsection 6, Code 1999, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 6. a. Every The owner or operator of each vessel shall  
20 provide that the vessel carry at least one life preserver,  
21 life belt, ring buoy, or other device, ~~of the sort as~~  
22 prescribed by the rules of the commission, for each passenger,  
23 so placed as to be readily accessible. This does not apply to  
24 a vessel which is a racing shell used in the sport of sculling  
25 or to a sailboard while used for windsurfing.

26 b. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft unless  
27 each person aboard is wearing an approved personal flotation  
28 device as prescribed by rule of the commission.

29 Sec. 4. Section 462A.9, Code 1999, is amended by adding  
30 the following new subsection:

31 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. The owner of each personal watercraft  
32 registered in the state shall affix a proper operation decal  
33 on the vessel in a location that is clearly visible to a  
34 person sitting in the position of the operator. The  
35 department shall provide proper operation decals to county

1 recorders. County recorders shall provide a proper operation  
2 decal to each owner of a personal watercraft when the  
3 watercraft is registered and assigned an identification  
4 number. If the proper operation decal is lost, mutilated, or  
5 becomes illegible, the owner shall obtain a new decal as soon  
6 as possible from a county recorder or the department.

7 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 462A.9A WATERCRAFT SAFETY COURSES  
8 -- CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.

9 The department shall establish a watercraft safety course  
10 approved by the commission not later than January 15, 2000.  
11 The watercraft safety course shall be administered by the  
12 department. The department may use other organizations and  
13 volunteers for assistance in designing and implementing the  
14 watercraft safety course. The watercraft safety course shall  
15 include all watercraft including personal watercraft in its  
16 curriculum and shall be taught in at least twelve counties  
17 commencing no later than January 15, 2000. Not later than  
18 January 15, 2002, the watercraft safety course shall be taught  
19 in at least one-half of the counties in this state. Each  
20 person who successfully completes an approved watercraft  
21 safety course shall be issued a watercraft safety certificate.  
22 The initial watercraft safety certificate shall be issued  
23 without a fee. A duplicate watercraft safety certificate  
24 shall be issued upon request upon payment of a fee of five  
25 dollars.

26 Sec. 6. Section 462A.12, subsection 1, Code 1999, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

28 1. No A person shall not operate any vessel, or manipulate  
29 any water skis, surfboard, or similar device in a careless,  
30 reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the life,  
31 limb, or property of any person. A person shall not operate a  
32 personal watercraft in a manner that causes the personal  
33 watercraft to become airborne while the personal watercraft  
34 crosses the wake of another vessel within one hundred feet of  
35 the other vessel.

1     Sec. 7. Section 462A.12, subsection 6, Code 1999, is  
2 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu  
3 thereof the following:

4     6. a. An owner or operator of any vessel propelled by a  
5 motor of more than six horsepower, including an owner of a  
6 boat livery, shall not permit any person under twelve years of  
7 age to operate the vessel unless accompanied by a responsible  
8 person of at least eighteen years of age. However, commencing  
9 July 1, 2002, a person who is twelve years of age or older but  
10 less than eighteen years of age shall not operate any vessel  
11 propelled by a motor of more than six horsepower unless  
12 accompanied by a responsible person of at least eighteen years  
13 of age or unless the person under eighteen years of age has  
14 successfully completed an approved watercraft safety course  
15 and has a watercraft safety certificate in immediate  
16 possession. Watercraft safety certificates from an approved  
17 course in another state or foreign nation will meet the  
18 requirements of this section. A person required to have a  
19 watercraft safety certificate shall carry and shall exhibit  
20 the certificate upon request of an officer of the department.  
21 A violation of this paragraph is a simple misdemeanor as  
22 provided in section 462A.13.

23     b. After July 1, 2000, an owner or operator of a personal  
24 watercraft, including an owner of a boat livery, shall not  
25 permit any person who is under twelve years of age to operate  
26 a personal watercraft unless accompanied by a responsible  
27 person of at least eighteen years of age. A person who is  
28 twelve years of age or older but less than eighteen years of  
29 age shall not operate a personal watercraft unless accompanied  
30 by a responsible person of at least eighteen years of age or  
31 unless the person under eighteen years of age has successfully  
32 completed an approved watercraft safety course and has a water  
33 safety certificate in immediate possession. Watercraft safety  
34 certificates from an approved course in another state or  
35 foreign nation will meet the requirements of this section. A

1 person required to have a watercraft safety certificate shall  
2 carry and shall exhibit the certificate upon request of an  
3 officer of the department. A violation of this paragraph is a  
4 simple misdemeanor as provided in section 462A.13.

5 Sec. 8. Section 462A.12, Code 1999, is amended by adding  
6 the following new subsections:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 12. A person operating a personal  
8 watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type  
9 engine cutoff switch shall attach the lanyard to the person's  
10 body, clothing, or personal flotation device as appropriate  
11 for the specific personal watercraft.

12 NEW SUBSECTION. 13. A person shall not operate a personal  
13 watercraft at any time between sunset and eight a.m.

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 14. A person shall not chase or harass  
15 wild animals while operating a personal watercraft.

16 Sec. 9. Section 462A.26, subsection 3, paragraph a,  
17 subparagraph (2), Code 1999, is amended by striking the  
18 subparagraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

19 (2) Motorboats or personal watercraft shall maintain a  
20 minimum passing or meeting distance of one hundred feet when  
21 both vessels are traveling at speeds greater than five miles  
22 per hour on public lakes or reservoirs or on the Mississippi  
23 or Missouri river. A minimum passing or meeting distance of  
24 fifty feet shall be maintained when motorboats and personal  
25 watercraft are traveling at speeds over five miles per hour on  
26 other rivers and streams.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill includes the following requirements and  
29 restrictions regarding the operation of various types of  
30 vessels:

31 1. A personal watercraft is defined as a vessel, under 16  
32 feet in length, which is propelled by a water jet pump or  
33 similar machinery and is designed to be operated by a person  
34 sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel.

35 2. The operator of a personal watercraft is required to

1 wear an approved personal flotation device.

2 3. This bill provides that the department make proper  
3 operation decals for all personal watercraft and that the  
4 owner is responsible for affixing the decal on the vessel  
5 where it is clearly visible to the operator. The county  
6 recorders are responsible for distributing the decals when the  
7 watercraft is registered.

8 4. The department of natural resources shall establish a  
9 watercraft safety course which shall include personal  
10 watercraft curriculum and be taught in at least 12 counties  
11 not later than January 15, 2000. Not later than January 15,  
12 2002, the watercraft safety course shall be taught in at least  
13 one-half of the counties. A watercraft safety certificate  
14 shall be issued without fee upon successful completion of the  
15 course. A five dollar fee shall be charged for a duplicate  
16 certificate.

17 5. A person under 12 years of age shall not operate a  
18 vessel propelled by a motor of more than six horsepower unless  
19 accompanied by a responsible person of at least 18 years of  
20 age. However, commencing July 1, 2002, a person who is at  
21 least 12 years of age but less than 18 years of age shall not  
22 operate a vessel which is propelled by a motor of more than  
23 six horsepower unless accompanied by a responsible person of  
24 at least 18 years of age or unless the person under 18 years  
25 of age has successfully completed an approved watercraft  
26 safety course and has a watercraft safety certificate in  
27 immediate possession.

28 6. After July 1, 2000, an owner or operator of a personal  
29 watercraft, including the owner of a boat livery, shall not  
30 permit a person under 12 years of age to operate a personal  
31 watercraft unless accompanied by a responsible person of at  
32 least 18 years of age or unless the person who is 12 years of  
33 age or older or less than 18 years of age has successfully  
34 completed an approved watercraft safety course and has a  
35 watercraft safety certificate in immediate possession.

1 7. The owner or operator of each vessel shall provide that  
2 the vessel carry at least one life preserver, life belt, ring  
3 buoy, or other device as prescribed by rules of the commission  
4 for each passenger, which is placed to be easily accessible.  
5 This requirement does not apply to a racing shell or sailboard  
6 used for wind surfing.

7 8. The registration and capacity numbers are no longer  
8 required to be displayed on the bottom surface of a sailboat  
9 bow.

10 9. Personal watercraft shall not be operated in a manner  
11 which will cause the personal watercraft to become airborne  
12 while crossing the wake of another vessel within 100 feet of  
13 the other vessel.

14 10. Lanyard is defined as a cord, rope, or wire, which  
15 connects an operator with a motorized vessel and is designed  
16 to stop the motor when disconnected.

17 11. A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by  
18 the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff is required  
19 to attach the lanyard to the operator's body, clothing, or  
20 personal flotation device as appropriate.

21 12. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft at  
22 any time after sunset and before eight a.m. of the following  
23 day.

24 13. A person shall not chase or harass wild animals while  
25 operating a personal watercraft.

26 14. Motorboats or personal watercraft shall maintain a  
27 minimum passing or meeting distance of 100 feet when both  
28 vessels are traveling at speeds of more than five miles per  
29 hour on public lakes or reservoirs or on the Mississippi or  
30 Missouri river. A minimum passing or meeting distance of 50  
31 feet shall be maintained when motorboats or personal  
32 watercraft are traveling at speeds over five miles per hour on  
33 other rivers and streams.

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TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LARRY J. WILSON, DIRECTOR

To: Iowa General Assembly  
From: Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Date: January 4, 1999  
Subject: Proposed Department Legislation - Watercraft Safety Education

Attached is a departmental proposed bill to amend Iowa Code chapter 462A to establish a watercraft safety education course and certification for persons from 12 through 17 years of age. The bill also provides specific new regulations for the operation of personal watercrafts.

Personal watercrafts have dramatically increased in popularity, which in turn have increased the interaction between them and other watercraft. In recent years, just under half of all boating accidents in Iowa have involved personal watercraft. This bill establishes a few new regulations specific to personal watercraft, such as passing distances, wave jumping limitations, and the use of emergency motor kill switches, to make Iowa waters safer places for recreation. Rather than creating numerous new regulations, the bill emphasizes boater education. The theory behind the education program is to make young operators of watercraft responsible and knowledgeable users of our state waters, which in turn over time, will reduce the number of boating accidents. This concept is much the same as is currently in effect under Iowa's existing hunter safety and snowmobile safety programs. Also, the proposed requirement to place a proper operations decal on all personal watercraft will remind children and adults alike of the importance of safe and respectful operation.

MAR 10 1999  
Place On Calendar

HOUSE FILE 608  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 63)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the operation, regulation, and equipment of  
2 watercraft, establishing watercraft safety courses, and  
3 subjecting violators to a penalty.

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

**HOUSE FILE 608**

H-1072

- 1 Amend House File 608 as follows:
- 2 1. Page 4, line 8, by inserting after the word
- 3 "animals" the following: "as defined in section
- 4 481A.1,".

By DOTZLER of Black Hawk

1 H-1072 FILED MARCH 10, 1999

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HF 608

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

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 12A. "Lanyard" means a cord, rope, or  
4 wire which connects an operator to a motorboat or motorized  
5 vessel and is designed to stop the motor when disconnected.

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

13 Sec. 2. Section 462A.2, subsection 15, Code 1999, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 15. "Motorboat" means any vessel propelled by machinery,  
16 whether or not such machinery is the principal source of  
17 propulsion, or vessel propelled attached to another craft  
18 which is propelled by machinery. "Motorboat" includes a  
19 personal watercraft.

20 Sec. 3. Section 462A.6A, subsection 4, Code 1999, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 4. A sailboard. ~~However, the registration decal shall be~~  
23 ~~attached to the bottom surface of the bow.~~

24 Sec. 4. Section 462A.9, subsection 6, Code 1999, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 6. a. Every The owner or operator of each vessel shall  
27 provide that the vessel carry at least one life preserver,  
28 life belt, ring buoy, or other device, of the sort as  
29 prescribed by the rules of the commission, for each passenger,  
30 so placed as to be readily accessible. This does not apply to  
31 a vessel which is a racing shell used in the sport of sculling  
32 or to a sailboard while used for windsurfing.

33 b. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft unless  
34 each person aboard is wearing an approved personal flotation  
35 device as prescribed by rule of the commission.

1     Sec. 5. Section 462A.9, Code 1999, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3     NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. The owner of each personal watercraft  
4 registered in the state shall affix a proper operation decal  
5 on the vessel in a location that is clearly visible to a  
6 person sitting in the position of the operator. The  
7 department shall provide proper operation decals to county  
8 recorders. County recorders shall provide a proper operation  
9 decal to each owner of a personal watercraft when the  
10 watercraft is registered and assigned an identification  
11 number. If the proper operation decal is lost, mutilated, or  
12 becomes illegible, the owner shall obtain a new decal as soon  
13 as possible from a county recorder or the department.

14     Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 462A.9A WATERCRAFT SAFETY COURSES  
15 -- CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.

16     The department shall establish a watercraft safety course  
17 approved by the commission not later than January 15, 2000.  
18 The watercraft safety course shall be administered by the  
19 department. A person who is eleven years of age or older may  
20 enroll in an approved watercraft safety course, but a person  
21 who is eleven years of age and who has successfully completed  
22 the course shall only be issued a certificate of completion  
23 which becomes valid on the person's twelfth birthday. The  
24 department may use other organizations and volunteers for  
25 assistance in designing and implementing the watercraft safety  
26 course. The watercraft safety course shall include all  
27 watercraft including personal watercraft in its curriculum.  
28 Each person who successfully completes an approved watercraft  
29 safety course shall be issued a watercraft safety certificate.  
30 However, a person under eighteen years of age shall not be  
31 issued a certificate of completion without consent of a parent  
32 or guardian. The initial watercraft safety certificate shall  
33 be issued without a fee. A duplicate watercraft safety  
34 certificate shall be issued upon request upon payment of a fee  
35 of five dollars.

1 Sec. 7. Section 462A.12, subsection 1, Code 1999, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. No A person shall not operate any vessel, or manipulate  
4 any water skis, surfboard, or similar device in a careless,  
5 reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the life,  
6 limb, or property of any person. A person shall not operate a  
7 personal watercraft in a manner that causes the personal  
8 watercraft to become airborne while the personal watercraft  
9 crosses the wake of another vessel within one hundred feet of  
10 the other vessel.

11 Sec. 8. Section 462A.12, subsection 6, Code 1999, is  
12 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu  
13 thereof the following:

14 6. An owner or operator of any vessel propelled by a motor  
15 of more than ten horsepower, including an owner of a boat  
16 livery, shall not permit any person under twelve years of age  
17 to operate the vessel unless accompanied in or on the same  
18 vessel by a responsible person of at least eighteen years of  
19 age. However, commencing January 1, 2002, a person who is  
20 twelve years of age or older but less than eighteen years of  
21 age shall not operate any vessel propelled by a motor of more  
22 than ten horsepower unless the person has successfully  
23 completed an approved watercraft safety course and has a  
24 watercraft safety certificate in immediate possession or is  
25 accompanied in or on the same vessel by a responsible person  
26 of at least eighteen years of age. Watercraft safety  
27 certificates from an approved course in another state or  
28 foreign nation will meet the requirements of this section. A  
29 person required to have a watercraft safety certificate shall  
30 carry and shall exhibit the certificate upon request of an  
31 officer of the department. A violation of this subsection is  
32 a simple misdemeanor as provided in section 462A.13.

33 Sec. 9. Section 462A.12, Code 1999, is amended by adding  
34 the following new subsections:

35 NEW SUBSECTION. 12. A person operating a personal

1 watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type  
2 engine cutoff switch shall attach the lanyard to the person's  
3 body, clothing, or personal flotation device as appropriate  
4 for the specific personal watercraft.

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 13. A person shall not operate a personal  
6 watercraft at any time between sunset and eight a.m.

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 14. A person shall not chase or harass  
8 wild animals while operating a personal watercraft.

9 EXPLANATION

10 This bill includes the following requirements and  
11 restrictions regarding the operation of various types of  
12 vessels:

13 1. A personal watercraft is defined as a vessel, under 16  
14 feet in length, which is propelled by a water jet pump or  
15 similar machinery and is designed to be operated by a person  
16 sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel. A motorboat is  
17 also defined to include personal watercraft.

18 2. The operator of a personal watercraft is required to  
19 wear an approved personal flotation device.

20 3. This bill provides that the department make proper  
21 operation decals for all personal watercraft and that the  
22 owner is responsible for affixing the decal on the vessel  
23 where it is clearly visible to the operator. The county  
24 recorders are responsible for distributing the decals when the  
25 watercraft is registered.

26 4. The department of natural resources shall establish a  
27 watercraft safety course which shall include personal  
28 watercraft curriculum. A watercraft safety certificate shall  
29 be issued without fee upon successful completion of the  
30 course. A five dollar fee shall be charged for a duplicate  
31 certificate.

32 5. A person under 12 years of age shall not operate a  
33 vessel propelled by a motor of more than 10 horsepower unless  
34 accompanied by a responsible person of at least 18 years of  
35 age. However, commencing January 1, 2002, a person who is at

1 least 12 years of age but less than 18 years of age shall not  
2 operate a vessel which is propelled by a motor of more than 10  
3 horsepower unless accompanied by a responsible person of at  
4 least 18 years of age or unless the person under 18 years of  
5 age has successfully completed an approved watercraft safety  
6 course and has a watercraft safety certificate in immediate  
7 possession.

8 6. The owner or operator of each vessel shall provide that  
9 the vessel carry at least one life preserver, life belt, ring  
10 buoy, or other device as prescribed by rules of the commission  
11 for each passenger, which is placed to be easily accessible.  
12 This requirement does not apply to a racing shell or sailboard  
13 used for wind surfing.

14 7. The registration and capacity numbers are no longer  
15 required to be displayed on the bottom surface of a sailboat  
16 bow.

17 8. Personal watercraft shall not be operated in a manner  
18 which will cause the personal watercraft to become airborne  
19 while crossing the wake of another vessel within 100 feet of  
20 the other vessel.

21 9. Lanyard is defined as a cord, rope, or wire, which  
22 connects an operator with a motorized vessel and is designed  
23 to stop the motor when disconnected.

24 10. A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by  
25 the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff is required  
26 to attach the lanyard to the operator's body, clothing, or  
27 personal flotation device as appropriate.

28 11. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft at  
29 any time after sunset and before eight a.m. of the following  
30 day.

31 12. A person shall not chase or harass wild animals while  
32 operating a personal watercraft.

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HOUSE FILE 608

H-1077

1 Amend House File 608 as follows:

2 1. Page 3, by striking lines 24 through 26 and  
3 inserting the following: "watercraft safety  
4 certificate in immediate possession. Watercraft  
5 safety".

By O'BRIEN of Boone

H-1077 FILED MARCH 11, 1999

## HOUSE FILE 608

H-1079

1 Amend House File 608 as follows:

2 1. Page 3, by striking lines 14 through 32 and  
3 inserting the following:

4 "6. a. Except as provided in paragraph b, an  
5 owner or operator of any vessel propelled by a motor  
6 of more than ten horsepower, including an owner of a  
7 boat livery, shall not permit any person under twelve  
8 years of age to operate the vessel unless accompanied  
9 in or on the same vessel by a responsible person of at  
10 least eighteen years of age. However, commencing  
11 January 1, 2002, a person who is twelve years of age  
12 or older but less than eighteen years of age shall not  
13 operate any vessel propelled by a motor of more than  
14 ten horsepower unless the person has successfully  
15 completed an approved watercraft safety course and has  
16 a watercraft safety certificate in immediate  
17 possession or is accompanied in or on the same vessel  
18 by a responsible person of at least eighteen years of  
19 age.

20 b. An owner or operator of any personal watercraft  
21 propelled by a motor of more than ten horsepower,  
22 including an owner of a boat livery, shall not permit  
23 any person under fourteen years of age to operate the  
24 personal watercraft unless accompanied in or on the  
25 same personal watercraft by a responsible person of at  
26 least eighteen years of age. However, commencing  
27 January 1, 2002, a person who is fourteen years of age  
28 or older but less than eighteen years of age shall not  
29 operate any personal watercraft propelled by a motor  
30 of more than ten horsepower unless the person has  
31 successfully completed an approved watercraft safety  
32 course and has a watercraft safety certificate in  
33 immediate possession or is accompanied in or on the  
34 same personal watercraft by a responsible person of at  
35 least eighteen years of age.

36 c. Watercraft safety certificates from an approved  
37 course in another state or foreign nation will meet  
38 the requirements of this section. A person required  
39 to have a watercraft safety certificate shall carry  
40 and shall exhibit the certificate upon request of an  
41 officer of the department.

42 d. A violation of this subsection is a simple  
43 misdemeanor as provided in section 462A.13."

By MUNDIE of Webster

H-1079 FILED MARCH 11, 1999

## HOUSE FILE 608

H-1160

1 Amend House File 608 as follows:  
2 1. By striking everything after the enacting  
3 clause and inserting the following:  
4 "Section 1. Section 462A.2, Code 1999, is amended  
5 by adding the following new subsections:  
6 NEW SUBSECTION. 12A. "Lanyard" means a cord,  
7 rope, or wire which connects an operator to a  
8 motorboat or motorized vessel and is designed to stop  
9 the motor when disconnected.  
10 NEW SUBSECTION. 22A. "Personal watercraft" means  
11 a vessel, less than sixteen feet in length, which is  
12 propelled by a water jet pump or similar machinery as  
13 its primary source of motor propulsion and is designed  
14 to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or  
15 kneeling on the vessel rather than being operated by a  
16 person sitting, standing, or kneeling inside the  
17 vessel.  
18 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 462A.6A, subsection 4, Code  
19 1999, is amended to read as follows:  
20 4. A sailboard. ~~However, the registration decal~~  
21 ~~shall be attached to the bottom surface of the bow.~~  
22 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 462A.9, subsection 6, Code 1999,  
23 is amended to read as follows:  
24 6. a. Every The owner or operator of each vessel  
25 shall provide that the vessel carry at least one life  
26 preserver, life belt, ring buoy, or other device, of  
27 the sort as prescribed by the rules of the commission,  
28 for each passenger, so placed as to be readily  
29 accessible. This does not apply to a vessel which is  
30 a racing shell used in the sport of sculling or to a  
31 sailboard while used for windsurfing.  
32 b. A person shall not operate a personal  
33 watercraft unless each person aboard is wearing an  
34 approved personal flotation device as prescribed by  
35 rule of the commission.  
36 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 462A.9, Code 1999, is amended by  
37 adding the following new subsection:  
38 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. The owner of each personal  
39 watercraft registered in the state shall affix a  
40 proper operation decal on the vessel in a location  
41 that is clearly visible to a person sitting in the  
42 position of the operator. The department shall  
43 provide proper operation decals to county recorders.  
44 County recorders shall provide a proper operation  
45 decal to each owner of a personal watercraft when the  
46 watercraft is registered and assigned an  
47 identification number. If the proper operation decal  
48 is lost, mutilated, or becomes illegible, the owner  
49 shall obtain a new decal as soon as possible from a  
50 county recorder or the department.

H-1160

H-1160

Page 2

1 Sec. \_\_\_\_ . NEW SECTION. 462A.9A WATERCRAFT SAFETY  
2 COURSES -- CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.

3 The department shall establish a watercraft safety  
4 course approved by the commission not later than  
5 January 15, 2000. The watercraft safety course shall  
6 be administered by the department. A person who is  
7 eleven years of age or older may enroll in an approved  
8 watercraft safety course, but a person who is eleven  
9 years of age and who has successfully completed the  
10 course shall only be issued a certificate of  
11 completion which becomes valid on the person's twelfth  
12 birthday. The department may use other organizations  
13 and volunteers for assistance in designing and  
14 implementing the watercraft safety course. The  
15 watercraft safety course shall include all watercraft  
16 including personal watercraft in its curriculum and  
17 shall be taught in at least twelve counties commencing  
18 no later than January 15, 2000. Not later than  
19 January 15, 2002, the watercraft safety course shall  
20 be taught in at least one-half of the counties in this  
21 state. Each person who successfully completes an  
22 approved watercraft safety course shall be issued a  
23 watercraft safety certificate. The initial watercraft  
24 safety certificate shall be issued without a fee. A  
25 duplicate watercraft safety certificate shall be  
26 issued upon request upon payment of a fee of five  
27 dollars.

28 Sec. \_\_\_\_ . Section 462A.12, subsection 1, Code  
29 1999, is amended to read as follows:

30 1. No A person shall not operate any vessel, or  
31 manipulate any water skis, surfboard, or similar  
32 device in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so  
33 as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any  
34 person. A person shall not operate a personal  
35 watercraft in a manner that causes the personal  
36 watercraft to become airborne while the personal  
37 watercraft crosses the wake of another vessel within  
38 one hundred feet of the other vessel.

39 Sec. \_\_\_\_ . Section 462A.12, subsection 6, Code  
40 1999, is amended by striking the subsection and  
41 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

42 6. a. An owner or operator of any vessel  
43 propelled by a motor of more than ten horsepower,  
44 including an owner of a boat livery, shall not permit  
45 any person under twelve years of age to operate the  
46 vessel unless accompanied in or on the same vessel by  
47 a responsible person of at least eighteen years of  
48 age. However, commencing July 1, 2002, a person who  
49 is twelve years of age or older but less than eighteen  
50 years of age shall not operate any vessel propelled by

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1 a motor of more than ten horsepower unless the person  
2 has successfully completed an approved watercraft  
3 safety course and has a watercraft safety certificate  
4 in immediate possession or is accompanied in or on the  
5 same vessel by a responsible person of at least  
6 eighteen years of age. Watercraft safety certificates  
7 from an approved course in another state or foreign  
8 nation will meet the requirements of this section. A  
9 person required to have a watercraft safety  
10 certificate shall carry and shall exhibit the  
11 certificate upon request of an officer of the  
12 department. A person who is eleven years of age or  
13 older may take and successfully complete a water  
14 safety course, but the certificate of completion shall  
15 not be valid until the person's twelfth birthday. A  
16 violation of this paragraph is a simple misdemeanor as  
17 provided in section 462A.13.

18 b. After July 1, 2000, an owner or operator of a  
19 personal watercraft, including an owner of a boat  
20 livery, shall not permit any person who is under  
21 twelve years of age to operate a personal watercraft  
22 unless accompanied on the same vessel by a responsible  
23 person of at least eighteen years of age. A person  
24 who is twelve years of age or older but less than  
25 eighteen years of age shall not operate a personal  
26 watercraft unless the person has successfully  
27 completed an approved watercraft safety course and has  
28 a water safety certificate in immediate possession or  
29 is accompanied on the same vessel by a responsible  
30 person of at least eighteen years of age. Watercraft  
31 safety certificates from an approved course in another  
32 state or foreign nation will meet the requirements of  
33 this section. A person required to have a watercraft  
34 safety certificate shall carry and shall exhibit the  
35 certificate upon request of an officer of the  
36 department. A violation of this paragraph is a simple  
37 misdemeanor as provided in section 462A.13.

38 Sec. 101. Section 462A.12, subsection 6, paragraph  
39 b, as enacted in this Act, is amended by striking the  
40 paragraph.

41 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 462A.12, Code 1999, is amended  
42 by adding the following new subsections:

43 NEW SUBSECTION. 12. A person operating a personal  
44 watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a  
45 lanyard-type engine cutoff switch shall attach the  
46 lanyard to the person's body, clothing, or personal  
47 flotation device as appropriate for the specific  
48 personal watercraft.

49 NEW SUBSECTION. 13. A person shall not operate a  
50 personal watercraft at any time between sunset and

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1 eight a.m.

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 14. A person shall not chase or  
3 harass wild animals while operating a personal  
4 watercraft.

5 Sec. \_\_\_\_ . EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 101 of this Act  
6 takes effect July 1, 2002."

7 2. Title page, line 3, by inserting after the  
8 word "penalty" the following: ", and providing an  
9 effective date".

By KETTERING of Sac

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