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SENATE FILE 200
BY SEXTON

(COMPANION TO LSB 1398HH
BY MUNDIE)

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, and subjecting violators to a penalty.

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

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SF 200
NAT. RES. & ENVIRONMENT

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.9, Code 1999, is amended by adding
14 the following new subsection:

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. A person shall not operate a personal
16 watercraft unless each person aboard is wearing an approved
17 personal flotation device as prescribed by rule of the
18 commission.

19 Sec. 3. Section 462A.10, Code 1999, is amended by adding
20 the following new subsection:

21 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The owner of a boat livery shall not
22 permit any of the owner's personal watercraft to be operated
23 for hire by a person who is under eighteen years of age.

24 Sec. 4. Section 462A.12, subsection 1, Code 1999, is
25 amended to read as follows:

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

34 Sec. 5. Section 462A.12, subsection 6, Code 1999, is
35 amended to read as follows:

1 6. No An owner or operator of any vessel propelled by a
2 motor of more than six horsepower shall not permit any person
3 under twelve years of age to operate such the vessel except
4 when unless accompanied by a responsible person of at least
5 eighteen years of age ~~who-is-experienced-in-motorboat~~
6 operation. An owner or operator of a personal watercraft,
7 other than an owner of a personal watercraft livery, shall not
8 permit any person under sixteen years of age to operate a
9 personal watercraft unless accompanied by a responsible person
10 of at least eighteen years of age.

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

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 12. A person operating a personal
14 watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type
15 engine cutoff switch shall attach the lanyard to the person's
16 body, clothing, or personal flotation device as appropriate
17 for the specific personal watercraft.

18 NEW SUBSECTION. 13. A person shall not operate a personal
19 watercraft at any time between sunset and seven a.m.

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

22 NEW SUBSECTION. 15. A person shall not operate a vessel
23 if the vessel's passenger capacity would be exceeded by those
24 persons in the vessel and those persons being towed on water
25 skis, a surfboard, or similar device.

26 Sec. 7. Section 462A.15, Code 1999, is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 462A.15 WATER SKIS AND SURFBOARDS.

29 1. No A person shall not operate a vessel on any waters of
30 this state under the jurisdiction of the commission for towing
31 a person or persons on water skis, surfboard or similar device
32 unless there is in such vessel a responsible person, in
33 addition to the operator, in a position to observe the
34 progress of the person or persons being towed.

35 2. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on

1 waters of this state under the jurisdiction of the commission
2 for towing a person unless, in addition to the operator, an
3 observer is on board to monitor the progress of a person being
4 towed.

5 ~~2-~~ 3. The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 of this
6 section do not apply to a performer engaged in a professional
7 exhibition or a person or persons engaged in a professional
8 exhibition or a person or persons engaged in an activity
9 authorized under section 462A.16.

10 Sec. 8. Section 462A.26, subsection 3, paragraph a,
11 subparagraph (2), Code 1999, is amended to read as follows:

12 (2) Motorboats or personal watercraft shall maintain a
13 minimum passing or meeting distance of fifty one hundred feet
14 when both boats vessels are traveling at speeds greater than
15 five miles per hour except as otherwise authorized under a
16 special events permit issued by the department.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill includes the following requirements and
19 restrictions regarding the operation of various types of
20 vessels:

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

25 2. All persons aboard a personal watercraft are required
26 to wear an approved personal flotation device.

27 3. A person must be at least 18 years of age to operate a
28 personal watercraft for hire from a boat livery.

29 4. An owner or operator of a personal watercraft, other
30 than the owner of a personal watercraft livery, shall not
31 allow a person under 16 years of age to operate a personal
32 watercraft unless accompanied by a responsible person of at
33 least 18 years of age.

34 5. Personal watercraft shall not be operated in a manner
35 which will cause the personal watercraft to become airborne by

1 crossing the wake of another vessel within 100 feet of the
2 other vessel.

3 6. Lanyard is defined as a cord, rope, or wire, which
4 connects an operator with a motorized vessel and is designed
5 to stop the motor when disconnected.

6 7. A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by
7 the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff is required
8 to attach the lanyard to the operator's body, clothing, or
9 personal flotation device as appropriate.

10 8. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft at any
11 time after sunset and before seven a.m. of the following day.

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

14 10. A person shall not operate a vessel while its
15 passenger capacity is exceeded. A person being towed on a
16 water ski, surfboard, or similar device is included as part of
17 the capacity of the vessel.

18 11. An operator of a personal watercraft shall not tow
19 another person without an observer to monitor the progress of
20 those being towed.

21 12. Motorboats or personal watercraft shall maintain a
22 minimum passing or meeting distance of 100 feet when both
23 vessels are traveling at speeds of more than five miles per
24 hour, except as otherwise authorized under a special events
25 permit issued by the department.

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