

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2659

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE PERSONS ON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT TO WEAR PERSONAL
3 FLOTATION DEVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 SECTION 1. Section 59-21-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 59-21-81. (1) Every vessel shall have on board a Coast
8 Guard approved personal flotation device for each person aboard
9 such vessel, and every person twelve (12) years or younger on
10 board a motorboat, sailboat, or vessel which measures less than
11 twenty-six (26) feet in length shall wear a type I, II, or III
12 Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while such
13 motorboat, sailboat, or vessel is underway. For the purpose of
14 this section "underway" shall mean at all times except when a
15 motorboat, sailboat, or vessel is anchored, moored, or aground.
16 Every vessel shall have lights during the hours of darkness, which
17 comply with all federal regulations applicable to vessels of its
18 classification. Such vessel shall not be operated unless in a
19 safe and seaworthy condition; the owner and operator shall employ
20 such safety devices as may be necessary for the safe operation of
21 such vessel, including an efficient natural or mechanical
22 ventilating system when necessary for safe operation. In addition
23 to the requirements imposed by this section, all vessels shall
24 comply with all federal regulations applicable to vessels of such
25 classification.

26 (2) For purposes of this subsection, "personal watercraft"
27 means a vessel which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet

28 pump and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting,
29 standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional
30 manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel. A person shall
31 not operate a personal watercraft unless each person on board or
32 being towed behind is wearing a type I, type II or type III,
33 personal flotation device approved by the United States Coast
34 Guard.

35 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2001.