

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott

To: Judiciary

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2537

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT CHILDREN UNDER A CERTAIN AGE SHALL NOT OPERATE
3 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PERSON 21 YEARS OF
4 AGE; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES TO CONDUCT
5 BOATING SAFETY COURSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 59-21-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 59-21-85. (1) (a) No motorboat * * * shall be operated by
10 any person who is under the age of twelve (12) years, unless
11 he * * * is * * * accompanied by a parent, guardian or other
12 person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and qualified
13 and capable of operating the same. No personal watercraft shall
14 be operated by any person who is under the age of sixteen (16)
15 years unless he is accompanied by a parent, guardian or other
16 person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and qualified
17 and capable of operating the same.

18 (b) A motorboat * * * may not be operated by any person
19 born after June 30, 1980, unless the person has completed a course
20 in boating safety conducted or approved by the Department of
21 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or the Department of Marine
22 Resources, and the person has in his immediate possession while
23 operating a motorboat a certificate of satisfactory completion of
24 the boating safety course.

25 (c) The requirement of possessing a certificate under
26 this subsection shall not apply to any person operating a
27 motorboat that is rented from a person engaged in the business of
28 renting motorboats.



29 (2) Boating safety courses shall be held by the Department
30 of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or the Department of Marine
31 Resources, or instructors designated and approved by the
32 departments. The department * * * shall issue a certificate to
33 each person who satisfactorily completes the boating safety
34 course.

35 (3) In lieu of any other penalties provided for a violation
36 of this chapter, a violation of this section is punishable by a
37 fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than
38 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

39 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
40 and after July 1, 2002.

