

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott

To: Judiciary

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 sixteen (16) years, unless he
11 possesses a certificate as required under this section and is also
12 accompanied by a parent, guardian or other person who is at least
13 twenty-one (21) years of age and qualified and capable of
14 operating the same.

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

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

26 (2) Boating safety courses shall be held by the Department
27 of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or the Department of Marine
28 Resources, or instructors designated and approved by the



29 departments. The department * * * shall issue a certificate to
30 each person who satisfactorily completes the boating safety
31 course.

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

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

