

By: Representative Ellington

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 1150

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

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

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

10 59-21-85. (1) (a) No motorboat \* \* \* shall be operated by  
11 any person who is under the age of sixteen (16) years, unless he  
12 possesses a certificate as required under this section and is also  
13 accompanied by a parent, guardian or other person who is at least  
14 twenty-one (21) years of age and qualified and capable of  
15 operating the same.

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

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

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



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

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

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

