

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Wildlife and Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2782

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REMOVE THE EXEMPTION FROM BOATING CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT IF
3 RENTING BOAT FROM PERSON ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF RENTING BOATS;
4 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 59-21-85. (1) (a) No motorboat required to be numbered
9 under this chapter shall be operated by any person who is under
10 the age of twelve (12) years, unless he possesses a certificate as
11 required under this section and is also accompanied by a parent,
12 guardian or other person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of
13 age and qualified and capable of operating the same.

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

21 (c) The requirement of possessing a certificate under
22 this subsection shall not apply to any person operating a
23 motorboat that is rented from a person engaged in the business of
24 renting motorboats. This paragraph (c) shall repeal on July 1,
25 2002.

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



29 and Parks shall issue a certificate to each person who
30 satisfactorily completes the boating safety course.

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

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after its passage.

