



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 238

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5332

House of Representatives, March 30, 2026

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN BOATING REGULATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) No operator of a
2 motorboat under power shall allow any person in such motorboat to
3 hang any portion of the body over the top of the gunwale while
4 underway. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person
5 in a motorboat that is engaged in anchoring, mooring or docking
6 activities and that is proceeding at dead slow speed.

7 Sec. 2. Subsection (m) of section 15-140c of the general statutes is
8 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
9 *1, 2026*):

10 (m) Any person who abandons a vessel shall have committed a
11 violation and shall be fined not less than [three hundred] seven hundred
12 fifty dollars nor more than [five hundred] one thousand dollars, except
13 if such abandonment occurred during a declared emergency and as a
14 result of the conditions that caused such emergency to be declared.
15 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Commissioner of
16 Energy and Environmental Protection may authorize the recovery of

17 reasonable costs against the last owner of record of a vessel for the
18 recovery of an abandoned vessel and any associated environmental
19 remediation by any state or municipal law enforcement agency.

20 Sec. 3. Subsection (l) of section 15-140j of the general statutes is
21 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
22 *1, 2026*):

23 (l) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
24 fined not less than sixty dollars or more than two hundred fifty dollars
25 for each such violation. In the event that the person who violated any
26 provision of this section cannot be determined, any such fine for such
27 violation shall be issued to the registrant of such personal watercraft.

28 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 15-140e of the 2026 supplement to the
29 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
30 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

31 (g) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
32 fined not less than sixty or more than two hundred fifty dollars for each
33 such violation. In the event that the person who violated any provision
34 of this section cannot be determined, any such fine for such violation
35 shall be issued to the registrant of such vessel.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	15-140c(m)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	15-140j(l)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	15-140e(g)

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases various fines associated with boating law violations, and results in a minimal revenue gain to the resources of the General Fund. The bill increases the range (from \$300-\$500 to \$750-\$1,000) of the fine that may be imposed for abandoning a boat.

Additionally, the bill requires fines for certain boating violations (current law subjects someone who violates these provisions to a fine between \$60 and \$250) to be issued to the person the boat is registered to, when the person who committed the violation cannot be determined, which will result in additional fines and corresponding revenue. Between FY 22 and FY 25, there were a total of 486 offenses recorded and \$47,277 in fines collected under the statutes related to the changes impacted by the bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of offenses and the fines imposed and collected.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5332

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN BOATING REGULATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires anyone operating a motorboat to prohibit people in the boat from hanging any part of their body over the boat's gunwale (top edge) while it is underway (free floating or under power). The bill specifies that this provision does not apply to people in a motorboat that is (1) engaged in anchoring, mooring, or docking activities and (2) proceeding a dead slow speed (not creating a wake, usually just above an idle).

The bill also makes changes to fines associated with certain boating law violations. Specifically, the bill increases, from between \$300 and \$500 to between \$750 and \$1,000, the range of the fine that generally may be imposed for abandoning a boat. The bill also allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to authorize state and municipal law enforcement agencies to recover reasonable costs from an abandoned boat's last recorded owner to cover the boat's recovery and any associated environmental remediation.

Additionally, the bill requires fines for certain boating violations to be issued to the person to whom the boat associated with the violation is registered when the person who committed the violation cannot be determined. Among other things, violations subject to this requirement include knowingly allowing someone who (1) is younger than 16 and (2) does not have the required DEEP-issued certification to do so to operate a personal watercraft, jetted articulated vessel, or other boat. Current law subjects someone who violates these provisions to a fine between \$60 and \$250.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/13/2026)