



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5332

February Session, 2026



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8 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*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21 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*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29 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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.