



**Substitute House Bill No. 5332**

**Public Act No. 26-60**

**AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN BOATING REGULATIONS.**

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

Section 1. Section 15-133 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (m) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (m) No operator shall allow any person aboard a recreational motorboat under power to sit on the gunwale with one or both legs over the outside of the gunwale, or to stand on the gunwale while such vessel is underway at greater than slow-no-wake speed.

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 15-140j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) No person shall operate a personal watercraft or a JAV unless such person has been issued a certificate of personal watercraft operation by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. No person less than sixteen years of age shall operate a JAV. No owner of a personal watercraft or a JAV shall knowingly authorize or permit a person who [is less than sixteen years of age who] does not have a certificate of personal watercraft operation issued by the commissioner

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to operate such personal watercraft or JAV on the waters of the state. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commissioner may modify or suspend, by written permission, any age or certification requirement set forth in this section for the purpose of a marine event held pursuant to section 15-140b. In those waters where the United States Coast Guard has jurisdiction over marine events, such permit shall not be valid unless and until the commissioner receives a copy of the United States Coast Guard authorization for a marine event.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No owner shall allow a vessel to be placed on the waters of the state unless current and valid contact information for the owner of such vessel is legibly printed on such vessel or attached to such vessel, as prescribed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, except any vessel for which the owner holds a valid and effective certificate of number awarded by the state, another state or the federal government.

Sec. 4. Section 15-136b of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the period of time for operation of motorboats on Wyassup Lake, in the town of North Stonington, shall be from the Saturday prior to Memorial Day to September fifteenth.] (a) For the period commencing on the Saturday prior to Memorial Day to the fifteenth day of September of each year, between the hours of eleven o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening, motorboats may be operated on Wyassup Lake, in the town of North Stonington, at speeds in excess of eight miles per hour and persons may waterski or operate a vessel towing a water skier.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, no person shall waterski or operate a vessel towing a water skier between the islands and the east shore of Wyassup Lake in the town of

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North Stonington.

Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 15-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) Any party with standing may seek full cost recovery from the person who abandoned the vessel for any unpaid expense or cost incurred as a result of, or incidental to, such vessel abandonment. Any party with standing that is a state or municipal law enforcement agency may additionally recover any associated environmental remediation costs or expenses and any expense or cost associated with, or incidental to, the removal of such vessel, including, but not limited to, any legal or court cost or expense incurred in the recovery and removal of such abandoned vessel. Any person who acts in good faith and without malicious intent in the processing, storage or movement of any abandoned vessel pursuant to this section shall be immune from civil liability for damage to such vessel.

Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 15-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(1) (A) The party with standing shall file a notarized notice of abandoned vessel with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection in person, by mail, by paid delivery service or electronically, as prescribed by the commissioner. Such filing shall be on forms as prescribed by the commissioner. The fee for filing such notice shall be twenty dollars.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, any such notarization and filing fee shall not be required of any party with standing that is the state, a municipality or a law enforcement agency of the state or any such municipality.

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Sec. 7. Subsection (m) of section 15-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(m) Any person who abandons a vessel shall have committed a violation and shall be fined not less than ~~[three hundred]~~ seven hundred fifty dollars nor more than ~~[five hundred]~~ one thousand dollars, except if such abandonment occurred during a declared emergency and as a result of the conditions that caused such emergency to be declared.

Governor's Action:  
Approved May 20, 2026