



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5780



Offered by:

REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.

REP. CALLAHAN, 108th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5332

File No. 238

Cal. No. 194

"AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN BOATING REGULATIONS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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

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

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11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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

13 (b) No person shall operate a personal watercraft or a JAV unless such

14 person has been issued a certificate of personal watercraft operation by
15 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. No person
16 less than sixteen years of age shall operate a JAV. No owner of a
17 personal watercraft or a JAV shall knowingly authorize or permit a
18 person who [is less than sixteen years of age who] does not have a
19 certificate of personal watercraft operation issued by the commissioner
20 to operate such personal watercraft or JAV on the waters of the state.
21 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commissioner may
22 modify or suspend, by written permission, any age or certification
23 requirement set forth in this section for the purpose of a marine event
24 held pursuant to section 15-140b. In those waters where the United
25 States Coast Guard has jurisdiction over marine events, such permit
26 shall not be valid unless and until the commissioner receives a copy of
27 the United States Coast Guard authorization for a marine event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

78 enforcement agency of the state or any such municipality.

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	15-133(m)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	15-140j(b)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	15-136b
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	15-140c(d)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	15-140c(h)(1)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	15-140c(m)