GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2005

H **3**

HOUSE BILL 702*
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/31/05
Senate Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 6/20/05

Short Title: Personal Watercraft Changes. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 17, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM AGE FOR PERSONS WHO MAY OPERATE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT IN THE STATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 75A-13.3(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no person under 16 years of age shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State, and it is unlawful for the owner of a personal watercraft or a person who has temporary or permanent responsibility for a person under the age of 16 to knowingly allow that person to operate a personal watercraft. A person of at least ~~12~~ 14 years of age but under 16 years of age may operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State if:

(1) The person is accompanied by a person of at least 18 years of age who physically occupies the watercraft; or

(2) The person (i) possesses on his or her person while operating the watercraft, identification showing proof of age and a boater safety certification card issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission or proof of other satisfactory completion of a boating safety education course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA); and (ii) produces that identification and certification card upon the request of an officer of the Wildlife Resources Commission or local law enforcement agency."

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective November 1, 2005. The age requirement of 14 years of age in this act does not apply to persons who are 12 years of age or older prior to November 1, 2005.