

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/20/25

(Filing No. H-233)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 671, L.D. 1042, "An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Passengers Under 13 Years of Age Wear Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Children Under 13 Years of Age Wear United States Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 228, §§13 and 14, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) Fails to ensure that a child who has not attained 13 years of age, including the operator, is wearing an appropriate United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while the watercraft is underway and used for recreational purposes unless the child who has not attained 13 years of age is below decks or in an enclosed cabin. This subparagraph does not apply to a watercraft with a United States Coast Guard certificate of inspection.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and adds an effective date of January 1, 2026. The amendment modifies the provision of law governing operation of a watercraft to prohibit a person from operating a watercraft unless all passenger children who are under 13 years of age and the boat operator, if also under 13 years of age, are wearing an appropriate United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while the watercraft is underway

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 671, L.D. 1042

1 and being used for recreational purposes unless they are below decks or in an enclosed
2 cabin.

3
4

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1042

LR 918(02)

An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Passengers Under 13 Years of Age Wear Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-233)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Minor revenue increase - General Fund

Minor revenue increase – Other Special Revenue Funds

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional fines will increase General Fund or other dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.