

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 651

H.P. 460

House of Representatives, February 19, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative SIMPSON of Casco.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Ensure the Safe Operation of Motorized Boats.



Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7793, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

6 7. Boater safety training. From time to time, and in
8 locations selected by the commissioner, the commissioner shall
10 offer a 6-hour course on boating safety and navigational aids for
12 residents of the State who wish to receive a certificate of
14 boating safety. The commissioner may approve courses offered by
16 other agencies of local government, State Government or Federal
18 Government, provided that those courses offer at least 6-class
20 hours of instruction in boating safety and navigational aids.
22 The commissioner may charge a fee to recover the cost of the
24 training and shall issue a certificate of boating safety to each
26 person that successfully completes the course.

28 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7798-B is enacted to read:

30 §7798-B. Certificate of boating safety

32 1. Operation of boat. A person may not operate a boat that
34 has a motor larger than 6 horsepower and is not a rental boat
36 unless that person:

38 A. Holds a certificate of boating safety issued by the
40 commissioner under section 7793, subsection 7; or

42 B. Is accompanied by a person who holds a certificate of
44 boating safety issued by the commissioner under section
46 7793, subsection 7.

48 2. Violation. A person operating a boat in violation of
50 this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not
52 to exceed \$25 may be adjudged.

54 3. Exemptions. A person who holds any license issued by
56 the Commissioner of Marine Resources under chapter 623 or 625 or
58 any pilot license issued by the United States Coast Guard is
60 exempt from this section.

62 Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act takes effect on January 1,
64 1995.

66 STATEMENT OF FACT

68 Effective January 1, 1995, any boat powered by a motor
70 larger than 6 horsepower that is not a rental boat must have at
72 least one person on board who has completed a 6-hour course in
74 boating safety and has received a certificate in boating safety.
76 A person who operates a boat in violation of this law may be
78 fined up to \$25. The bill requires the Commissioner of Inland

2 Fisheries and Wildlife to provide the 6-hour training course. A person holding a marine resource license issued by the Commissioner of Marine Resources is exempt from this Act.