

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 416

S.P. 137

In Senate, January 23, 1997

An Act to Regulate the Use of Personal Watercraft.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Senator RUHLIN of Penobscot, Representatives: CAMERON of Rumford,
PAUL of Sanford, SPEAR of Nobleboro.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7793-F** is enacted to read:

6 **§7793-F. Safety and education course required before registering
personal watercraft**

8 After January 1, 1998, the commissioner may not register or
10 issue certificates of number for any personal watercraft unless
12 the owner of that personal watercraft has successfully completed
a personal watercraft safety and education course pursuant to
section 7807.

14 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7801, sub-§30**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 455,
16 §40, is further amended to read:

18 **30. Failure to comply with additional safety requirements**
20 **while operating a personal watercraft.** A person is guilty of
failure to comply with additional safety requirements while
operating a personal watercraft if that person:

22 A. Or any passenger is not wearing Coast Guard approved
24 Type I, Type II or Type III personal flotation devices while
operating or riding on the personal watercraft;

26 B. Operates the personal watercraft during the hours
between sunset and sunrise; or

28 C. Operates a personal watercraft before attaining the age
30 of ~~12~~ 16 years;

32 D. Engages in wake jumping while operating the personal
watercraft; or

34 E. Operates a personal watercraft without first completing
36 a personal watercraft safety and education course pursuant
to section 7807.

38 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §§7806 and 7807** are enacted to read:

40 **§7806. Personal watercraft; licensing of rental agents**

42 After January 1, 1998, a person may not engage in the
44 business of renting personal watercraft unless licensed by the
46 commissioner as a personal watercraft rental agent under this
48 section. The commissioner shall adopt routine technical rules
pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A establishing a
personal watercraft rental agent licensing program. Those rules
must establish the fee for an annual personal watercraft rental
50 agent's license and must:

