

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 651

S.P. 206

In Senate, February 8, 2005

An Act Regarding Education of Certain Personal Watercraft Operators

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 BRYANT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative WHEELER of Kittery and
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, PATRICK of Rumford.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13071-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §384 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

6 **1. Operating personal watercraft while underage.** A person
8 unless the person is 12 to 15 years of age and has satisfactorily
10 completed a boating safety education course approved by the
12 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or a
14 successor organization. A person 12 to 15 years of age who is
16 permitted to operate a personal watercraft under this subsection
18 must possess proof of age and proof of satisfactory completion of
a boating safety education course approved pursuant to this
subsection while operating a personal watercraft and shall
produce this proof upon request of a game warden or law
enforcement officer authorized to enforce the State's watercraft
laws.

20 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil
22 violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more
than \$500 may be adjudged.

24 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been
26 adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations
28 under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a
Class E crime.

30 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill requires persons 12 to 15 years of age to
34 satisfactorily complete a boating safety education course
approved by the National Association of State Boating Law
Administrators in order to operate a personal watercraft. A
36 person 12 to 15 years of age who has satisfactorily completed an
approved boating safety education course is required to possess
38 proof of completion and proof of age while operating a personal
watercraft and produce this proof upon request of a game warden
40 or law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the State's
watercraft laws.