



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 241

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING BOATING SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 15-136 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2022*):

4 (a) Any town, by ordinance, may make local regulations respecting
5 the operation of vessels on any body of water within its territorial limits.
6 Upon adoption, each such ordinance shall be submitted to the
7 commissioner and, if not disapproved by [him within sixty days
8 thereafter] the commissioner not later than sixty days after such
9 submission, shall take effect as provided in subsection (c) of this section.
10 The commissioner may disapprove any ordinance or part thereof
11 [which he] that the commissioner finds to be arbitrary, unreasonable,
12 unnecessarily restrictive, inimical to uniformity, duplicative of any state
13 law or regulation or inconsistent with the policy of this part.

14 Sec. 2. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 15-154 of the general statutes
15 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
16 *October 1, 2022*):

17 (d) Upon the immediate approach of a law enforcement vessel using
18 an audible signal device [and] or flashing blue lights, or a fire rescue

19 vessel using an audible signal device [and] or flashing red or yellow
20 lights, any person operating a vessel shall immediately slow to a speed
21 sufficient to maintain steerage only, shall alter course, within its ability,
22 so as not to inhibit or interfere with the operation of the law enforcement
23 vessel or fire rescue vessel, and shall proceed, unless otherwise directed
24 by an officer in the law enforcement vessel or fire rescue vessel, at a
25 reduced speed until beyond the area of operation of the law
26 enforcement vessel or fire rescue vessel. Any person operating a vessel
27 who wilfully or negligently obstructs or retards any law enforcement or
28 fire rescue vessel answering an emergency call or in pursuit of fleeing
29 law violators shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

30 (e) Any person operating a vessel passing within two hundred feet of
31 a stationary law enforcement vessel using an audible signal device [and]
32 or flashing blue lights, or a stationary fire rescue vessel using flashing
33 red or yellow lights shall reduce speed to a speed of slow-no-wake until
34 there is a distance of more than two hundred feet between such person's
35 vessel and the law enforcement vessel or fire rescue vessel. Any person
36 operating a vessel passing within two hundred feet of a commercial
37 vessel responding to or towing a vessel in distress when such
38 commercial vessel is displaying flashing red or yellow lights shall
39 reduce speed to a speed of slow-no-wake. For purposes of this
40 subsection, "slow-no-wake" means operation of a vessel at a speed that
41 does not produce more than a minimum wake and is not greater than
42 six miles per hour over ground, unless a higher minimum speed is
43 necessary to maintain steerage when traveling with a strong current.

44 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The Commissioner of Energy and
45 Environmental Protection shall establish a schedule of retention fees for
46 lake authorities that provides for the amount of any fine issued by such
47 authority, to any person who violates the boating laws of the state upon
48 such lake, that such authority may retain.

49 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of five million dollars is
50 appropriated to the Department of Energy and Environmental
51 Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,

52 2023, for the purposes of increasing environmental conservation police
53 officer staffing levels in order to provide enhanced and sustained
54 enforcement of the boating laws of the state on the lakes, rivers and
55 other waters of the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	15-136(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	15-154(d) and (e)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 202</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*