
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2019 Wisconsin Act 115 [2019 Assembly Bill 704]

Operation of Motorboats by Minors

State law allows 10- and 11-year olds to operate a motorboat if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated adult. 2019 Wisconsin Act 115 requires that this accompanying parent, guardian, or designated adult must have a valid boating safety certificate or be exempt from the state boating safety certificate requirement.

State law authorizes 12- to 15-year olds to operate a motorboat if they have a valid boating safety certificate or they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated adult. Act 115 requires that the accompanying parent, guardian, or designated adult must have a valid boating safety certificate or be exempt from the state boating safety certificate requirement.

Under state law, a person born after January 1, 1989 and who is 16 or older may operate a motorboat if they have a valid boating safety certificate. Act 115 also allows a person born after January 1, 1989 and who is 16 or older to operate a motorboat if they are accompanied by another person who is at least 18 years old who holds a valid boating safety certificate or is exempt from the boating safety certificate requirement.

Effective date: March 1, 2020

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