



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4321/1
RNK:klm

2015 SENATE BILL 597

January 22, 2016 - Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, C. LARSON, LASSA, MILLER and RISSER, cosponsored by Representatives A. OTT, BALLWEG, BERCEAU, GENRICH, GOYKE, HEATON, HESSELBEIN, HORLACHER, JOHNSON, KAHL, T. LARSON, OHNSTAD, ROHRKASTE, SPIROS, SPREITZER, SUBECK, WACHS, ZEPNICK and LOUDENBECK. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

1 **AN ACT to create** 30.68 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** regulating the operation
2 of recreational vessels carrying persons under the age of 13.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits the operator of a recreational vessel from carrying a passenger who is under the age of 13 unless, during all times when the vessel is underway, the passenger is wearing a properly fitting personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard or the passenger remains below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 30.68 (1) of the statutes is created to read:
4 **30.68 (1) OPERATING REQUIREMENTS; CARRYING A PASSENGER UNDER THE AGE OF 13.**
5 (a) In this subsection, "recreational vessel" means a vessel manufactured or operated
6 primarily for pleasure or leased, rented, or chartered to another person for the other
7 person's pleasure but does not include a vessel engaged in the carriage of passengers
8 for hire.

SENATE BILL 597

SECTION 1

1 (b) No person may operate a recreational vessel carrying a passenger who is
2 under the age of 13 unless any of the following apply:

3 1. During all times when the recreational vessel is underway, the passenger is
4 wearing a properly fitting personal flotation device that is approved by the U.S. coast
5 guard.

6 2. During all times when the recreational vessel is underway, the passenger
7 remains below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

8 (END)