2015 SENATE BILL 597


AN ACT to create 30.68 (1) of the statutes; relating to: regulating the operation 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:

SECTION 1. 30.68 (1) of the statutes is created to read:

30.68 (1) OPERATING REQUIREMENTS; CARRYING A PASSENGER UNDER THE AGE OF 13.

(a) In this subsection, “recreational vessel” means a vessel manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure or leased, rented, or chartered to another person for the other person’s pleasure but does not include a vessel engaged in the carriage of passengers for hire.
(b) No person may operate a recreational vessel carrying a passenger who is under the age of 13 unless any of the following apply:

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

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