

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE BILL 702\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/31/05**

Short Title: Personal Watercraft Changes.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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March 17, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM AGE FOR PERSONS WHO MAY  
2 OPERATE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT IN THE STATE.

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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 75A-13.3(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no person under 16 years of  
7 age shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State, and it is unlawful for  
8 the owner of a personal watercraft or a person who has temporary or permanent  
9 responsibility for a person under the age of 16 to knowingly allow that person to operate  
10 a personal watercraft. A person of at least ~~12~~14 years of age but under 16 years of age  
11 may operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State if:

- 12 (1) The person is accompanied by a person of at least 18 years of age who  
13 physically occupies the watercraft; or  
14 (2) The person (i) possesses on his or her person while operating the  
15 watercraft, identification showing proof of age and a boater safety  
16 certification card issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission or  
17 proof of other satisfactory completion of a boating safety education  
18 course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law  
19 Administrators (NASBLA); and (ii) produces that identification and  
20 certification card upon the request of an officer of the Wildlife  
21 Resources Commission or local law enforcement agency."

22 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective September 1, 2005. The age  
23 requirement of 14 years of age in this act does not apply to persons who are 12 years of  
24 age or older prior to September 1, 2005.