

House Bill 507

By: Representatives Lane of the 146<sup>th</sup> and Rogers of the 20<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions relative to the registration, operation, and sale of watercraft,  
3 so as to change the minimum age allowable for renting or leasing a personal watercraft; to  
4 provide certain restrictions upon the operation of personal watercraft by persons 14 and 15  
5 years of age; to provide that persons under the age of 14 shall not operate personal watercraft  
6 under certain conditions; to provide that personal watercraft or other types of vessels may not  
7 be singled out for regulation by ordinance or local law; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
8 other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
12 general provisions relative to the registration, operation, and sale of watercraft, is amended  
13 by striking in its entirety subsection (c) of Code Section 52-7-8.2, relating to restrictions on  
14 the operation of personal watercraft, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

15 "(c) No person shall rent, lease, or let for hire a personal watercraft to any person under the  
16 age of ~~16~~ 18 years."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said article is further amended by inserting at the end of Code Section 52-7-8.2, relating to  
19 restrictions on the operation of personal watercraft, the following:

20 "(o) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prevent the adoption of any  
21 ordinance or local law relating to the operation and equipment of vessels not in conflict  
22 with this chapter; provided, however, that no such ordinance or local law shall discriminate  
23 against any particular type of vessel."



1 (2) 'Proper identification' shall have the same meaning as in subsection (d) of Code  
2 Section 3-3-23, relating to furnishing of alcoholic beverages.

3 (3) 'Under the direct supervision' means within sight of and within 400 yards of a person  
4 who is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs to a degree which would constitute a  
5 violation of Code Section 52-7-12 were such person operating the vessel and who is  
6 aware of his or her supervisory responsibility.

7 ~~(f)~~ (g) No person having ownership or control of a vessel shall permit another person to  
8 operate such vessel in violation of this Code section.

9 (h) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prevent the adoption of any  
10 ordinance or local law relating to the operation and equipment of vessels not in conflict  
11 with this chapter; provided, however, that no such ordinance or local law shall discriminate  
12 against any particular type of vessel."

13 **SECTION 4.**

14 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.