

House Bill 148

By: Representative Rogers of the 20th

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 define certain terms; to authorize and direct the Board of Natural Resources to
4 provide by rule or regulation for the equipping of powered vessels equipped with a bilge with
5 a device designed to prevent the discharge of petroleum products into the waters of the state;
6 to provide for penalties; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 general provisions relative to the registration, operation, and sale of watercraft, is amended
11 by inserting immediately following Code Section 52-7-8.3 a new Code section to read as
12 follows:

13 "52-7-8.4.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

15 (1) 'Bilge water petroleum separator' means a device designed to separate petroleum
16 products from the bilge water of vessels.

17 (2) 'Powered vessel' means any vessel equipped with a bilge powered by an inboard or
18 outboard engine. Such term shall include, without limitation, personal watercraft.

19 (b) The board is authorized and directed to provide by rule or regulation for the equipping
20 of powered vessels with a bilge water petroleum separator designed so as to limit the
21 discharge of petroleum products into the waters of the state. The board shall establish the
22 maximum permissible discharge permitted so as not to leave a sheen on the water. Such
23 rule or regulation shall be promulgated and become effective not later than December 31,
24 2001.

25 (c) On and after January 1, 2002, no person shall operate a powered vessel on the waters
26 of the state unless such vessel is equipped with a bilge water petroleum separator.

1 (d) Any person operating a vessel on the waters of the state in violation of this Code
2 section shall be subject to a fine not less than \$50.00 nor greater than \$500.00 for each
3 violation."

4 **SECTION 2.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.