

Senate Bill 136

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Unterman of the 45th, Murphy of the 27th, Sims of the 12th, Tolleson of the 20th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 27 and Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to game and fish and to registration, operation, and sale of watercraft, respectively,  
3 so as to provide greater public protection for hunting and boating; to harmonize provisions  
4 relating to hunting, boating, and driving under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or  
5 drugs; to provide for short titles; to change provisions relating to rules and regulations used  
6 to establish criminal violations for hunting; to change provisions relating to hunting under  
7 the influence; to change provisions relating to required equipment for children on vessels and  
8 lighting; to change provisions relating to operating vessels and personal watercraft; to change  
9 provisions relating to operation of watercraft and operating watercraft while under the  
10 influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs; to change provisions relating to ordering drug  
11 or alcohol testing; to change provisions relating to suspension of an operator's privilege to  
12 operate a vessel in this state; to change provisions relating to boating education courses in  
13 this state; to change provisions relating to rules and regulations used to establish criminal  
14 violations for registration, operation, and sale of watercraft and displaying watercraft  
15 information; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability;  
16 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

18 **SECTION 1.**

19 Sections 5, 6, and 11 of this Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Kyle Glover Boat  
20 Education Law," and Sections 8, 9, and 10 of this Act shall be known and may be cited as  
21 the "Jake and Griffin Prince BUI Law."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended by  
24 revising Code Section 27-1-39, relating to rules and regulations used to establish criminal  
25 violations, as follows:

26 "27-1-39.

27 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for purposes of establishing criminal  
 28 violations of the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources as  
 29 provided in this title, the term 'rules and regulations' ~~shall mean~~ means those rules and  
 30 regulations of the Board of Natural Resources in force and effect on ~~January 1, 2012~~  
 31 February 5, 2013."

### 32 SECTION 3.

33 Said title is further amended in Code Section 27-3-7, relating to hunting under the influence  
 34 of alcohol or drugs, by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (b), subsection (f), and paragraph  
 35 (2) of subsection (g) and by adding three new subsections to read as follows:

36 "(4) The person's alcohol concentration is ~~0.10~~ 0.08 grams or more at any time within  
 37 three hours after such hunting from alcohol consumed before such hunting ended; or"

38 "(f) Upon the trial of any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged  
 39 to have been committed by any person hunting in violation of subsection (b) of this Code  
 40 section, the amount of alcohol in the person's blood at the time alleged, as shown by  
 41 chemical analysis of the person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily substance, shall give  
 42 rise to the following presumptions:

43 (1) If there was at that time a blood alcohol concentration of 0.05 grams or less, it shall  
 44 be presumed that the person was not under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by  
 45 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section;

46 (2) If there was at that time a blood alcohol concentration in excess of 0.05 grams but  
 47 less than 0.08 grams, such fact shall not give rise to any presumption that the person was  
 48 or was not under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of  
 49 subsection (b) of this Code section, but such fact may be considered with other competent  
 50 evidence in determining whether the person was under the influence of alcohol, as  
 51 prohibited by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section; and

52 ~~(3) If there was at that time a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams or more, it shall~~  
 53 ~~be presumed that the person was under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by~~  
 54 ~~paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section; and~~

55 ~~(4)~~(3) If there was at that time or within three hours after hunting, from alcohol  
 56 consumed before such hunting ended, a blood alcohol concentration of ~~0.10~~ 0.08 or more  
 57 grams, the person shall be in violation of paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code  
 58 section."

59 "(2) At the time a chemical test or tests are requested, the arresting officer shall read to  
 60 the person the following implied consent warning:

61 'Georgia law requires you to submit to state administered chemical tests of your blood,  
 62 breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining if you are under

63 the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse this testing ~~and you are convicted of~~  
 64 ~~hunting while under the influence of alcohol or drugs~~, your privilege to hunt in this  
 65 state will be suspended for a period of two years. Your refusal to submit to the required  
 66 testing may be offered into evidence against you at trial. If you ~~consent to the test, the~~  
 67 ~~results may be offered into evidence against you~~ submit to testing and the results  
 68 indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams or more or the presence of any illegal  
 69 drug, your privilege to hunt in this state may be suspended for a minimum period of one  
 70 year. After first submitting to the required state tests, you are entitled to additional  
 71 chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances at your own  
 72 expense and from qualified personnel of your own choosing. Will you submit to the  
 73 state administered chemical tests of your (designate which tests) under the implied  
 74 consent law?"

75 "(j) Nothing in this Code section shall be deemed to preclude the acquisition or admission  
 76 of evidence of a violation of this Code section if the evidence was obtained by voluntary  
 77 consent or a search warrant as authorized by the Constitution or the laws of this state or the  
 78 United States.

79 (k) Upon the request of a law enforcement officer, if a person consents to submit to a  
 80 chemical test designated by such officer as provided in subsection (g) of this Code section,  
 81 and the results of such test indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams or more, upon  
 82 a conviction of a violation of paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section, in  
 83 addition to any other punishment imposed, such person's privileges to hunt in this state  
 84 shall be suspended by operation of law for a period of one year. Even if such person did  
 85 not possess a valid hunting license at the time of the violation, such person's hunting  
 86 privileges shall be suspended for one year.

87 (l) Following the period of suspension set forth in subsection (i) or (k) of this Code  
 88 section, such person may apply to the department for reinstatement of his or her hunting  
 89 privileges. Any suspension pursuant to this Code section shall remain in effect until such  
 90 person submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction  
 91 Program certified by the Department of Driver Services and pays a restoration fee of  
 92 \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist conviction, in which case the restoration  
 93 fee shall be \$500.00."

94 **SECTION 4.**

95 Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration,  
 96 operation, and sale of watercraft, is amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of  
 97 Code Section 52-7-8, relating to classification of vessels and required equipment, as follows:

98 "(3) No person shall operate a moving vessel upon the waters of this state with a child  
 99 under the age of ten 13 years on board such vessel unless ~~the~~ such child is wearing an  
 100 appropriately sized personal flotation device, as required by this subsection to be on  
 101 board the vessel. This requirement shall not apply when the child is within a fully  
 102 enclosed roofed cabin or other fully enclosed roofed compartment or structure on the  
 103 vessel."

104 **SECTION 5.**

105 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (a), (c), (l), and (m) of Code Section  
 106 52-7-8.2, relating to restrictions on operation of personal watercraft, as follows:

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

108 (1) 'Accompanied by' means in the physical presence within the vessel of a person who  
 109 is not under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs to a degree which would  
 110 constitute a violation of Code Section 52-7-12 were such person operating the vessel.

111 ~~(2) 'Class A vessel' means a boat less than 16 feet in length.~~

112 ~~(3)~~(2) 'Personal watercraft' means a Class A vessel which:

113 (A) Has an outboard motor or which has an inboard motor which uses an internal  
 114 combustion engine powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motive  
 115 propulsion;

116 (B) Is designed with the concept that the operator and passenger ride on the outside  
 117 surfaces of ~~the~~ such vessel as opposed to riding inside ~~the~~ such vessel; and

118 (C) Has the probability that the operator and passenger may, in the normal course of  
 119 use, fall overboard.

120 Such term includes, without limitation, any vessel where the operator and passenger ride  
 121 on the outside surfaces of the vessel, even if the primary source of motive propulsion is  
 122 a propeller, and any ~~vessels~~ vessel commonly known as a 'jet ski.'

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

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

129 ~~"(l) On and after June 1, 1995, no~~ No person under the age of 16 years shall operate a  
 130 personal watercraft on the waters of this state; provided, however, that a person ~~age~~ 12  
 131 through 15 years of age may operate a personal watercraft if he or she is accompanied by  
 132 an adult ~~age~~ 18 years of age or ~~over~~ older or he or she has successfully completed a  
 133 ~~personal watercraft safety program~~ boating education course approved by the department

134 ~~or is under direct supervision by an adult age 18 or over.~~ The department may, ~~but shall~~  
 135 ~~not be required to,~~ conduct or provide personal watercraft safety boating education courses  
 136 to the public.

137 (m) ~~On and after July 1, 1995, it~~ It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or knowingly  
 138 permit such person's child or ward who is less than 12 years of age or the child or ward of  
 139 another over whom such person has a permanent or temporary responsibility of supervision  
 140 if such child or ward is less than 12 years of age to operate a personal watercraft."

141 **SECTION 6.**

142 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 52-7-8.3, relating to operation of  
 143 watercraft, as follows:

144 "52-7-8.3.

145 (a) A person ~~age 16 years of age or over~~ older may operate any vessel or personal  
 146 watercraft on any of the waters of this state if such person has met the applicable  
 147 requirements of Code Section 52-7-22, and such person ~~shall have~~ has in such vessel  
 148 proper identification.

149 (b) A person ~~age 14 or 12 through 15 years of age~~ may operate:

150 ~~(1) A~~ a personal watercraft or ~~nonmotorized~~ Class A vessel on any of the waters of this  
 151 state in compliance with the provisions of this article; ~~and~~ if such person:

152 ~~(2) Any other vessel if such person:~~

153 ~~(A)(1)~~ (1) Is accompanied by an adult ~~age 18 or over~~ 18 years of age or older who is  
 154 authorized to operate such vessel under the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code  
 155 section; or

156 ~~(B)(2)~~ (2) Has completed a safe boating education course approved by the department; ~~or~~

157 ~~(C) Is under direct supervision by an adult age 18 or over.~~

158 (c) ~~A person age 12 or 13 may operate any Class A vessel utilizing mechanical means of~~  
 159 ~~propulsion not exceeding 30 horsepower, under the conditions set forth in subparagraphs~~  
 160 ~~(b)(2)(A) through (b)(2)(C) of this Code section. Such person may operate a personal~~  
 161 ~~watercraft in compliance with Code Section 52-7-8.2, and such person may operate~~  
 162 ~~nonmotorized Class A vessels without restriction~~ No person between 12 through 15 years  
 163 of age may operate a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 vessel.

164 (d) No person under the age of 12 years shall operate any Class 1, 2, or 3 vessel or any  
 165 personal watercraft on any of the waters of this state, and no such person shall operate any  
 166 Class A vessel utilizing mechanical means of propulsion exceeding 30 horsepower. Such  
 167 person may operate a Class A vessel, other than a personal watercraft, utilizing mechanical  
 168 means of propulsion not exceeding 30 horsepower only where such person is accompanied

169 by an adult ~~age 18 years of age or over~~ older who is authorized to operate such vessel under  
 170 the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section.

171 ~~(e) No person having ownership or control of a vessel shall permit another person to~~  
 172 ~~operate such vessel in violation of this Code section.~~

173 ~~(f) No person shall rent, lease, or let for hire any vessel ten horsepower or more to any~~  
 174 ~~person under 16 years of age. On and after July 1, 2014, a person 16 years of age or older~~  
 175 ~~may rent or lease any vessel ten horsepower or more if such person has completed a~~  
 176 ~~boating education course approved by the department. This subsection shall not apply to~~  
 177 ~~any person licensed by the United States Coast Guard as a master of a vessel or a~~  
 178 ~~nonresident who has in his or her possession proof that he or she has completed a National~~  
 179 ~~Association of State Boat Licensed Administrators approved boater education course or~~  
 180 ~~equivalency examination from another state.~~

181 ~~(e)~~(g) As used in this Code section, the term:

182 (1) 'Accompanied by' means in the physical presence within the vessel of a person who  
 183 is not under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs to a degree which would  
 184 constitute a violation of Code Section 52-7-12 were such person operating the vessel.

185 ~~(2) 'Personal watercraft' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section~~  
 186 ~~52-7-8.2.~~

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

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

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

## 195 SECTION 7.

196 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section  
 197 52-7-11, relating to lights, as follows:

198 "(2) All motorized Class A and Class 1 vessels being operated during hours of darkness  
 199 or low visibility shall display a 32 point white stern light visible for a distance of two  
 200 miles, plus a 20 point combination red and green light on the bow; or ten-point  
 201 combination red and green side lights properly screened and visible for a distance of one  
 202 mile and displayed lower than the white stern light."

203

**SECTION 8.**

204 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 52-7-12, relating to operation of  
 205 watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, as follows:

206 "52-7-12.

207 (a) No person shall operate, navigate, steer, or drive any moving vessel, or be in actual  
 208 physical control of any moving vessel, nor shall any person manipulate any moving water  
 209 skis, moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving device while:

210 (1) Under the influence of alcohol to the extent that it is less safe for the person to  
 211 operate, navigate, steer, drive, manipulate, or be in actual physical control of a moving  
 212 vessel, moving water skis, moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving  
 213 device;

214 (2) Under the influence of any drug to the extent that it is less safe for the person to  
 215 operate, navigate, steer, drive, manipulate, or be in actual physical control of a moving  
 216 vessel, moving water skis, moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving  
 217 device;

218 (3) Under the intentional influence of any glue, aerosol, or other toxic vapor to the extent  
 219 that it is less safe for the person to operate, navigate, steer, drive, manipulate, or be in  
 220 actual physical control of a moving vessel, moving water skis, moving aquaplane,  
 221 moving surfboard, or similar moving device;

222 ~~(3)~~(4) Under the combined influence of alcohol and any drug any two or more of the  
 223 substances specified in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection to the extent that it  
 224 is less safe for the person to operate, navigate, steer, drive, manipulate, or be in actual  
 225 physical control of a moving vessel, moving water skis, moving aquaplane, moving  
 226 surfboard, or similar moving device;

227 ~~(4)~~(5) The person's alcohol concentration is ~~0.10~~ 0.08 grams or more at any time within  
 228 three hours after such operating, navigating, steering, driving, manipulating, or being in  
 229 actual physical control of a moving vessel, moving water skis, moving aquaplane,  
 230 moving surfboard, or similar moving device from alcohol consumed before such  
 231 operating, navigating, steering, driving, manipulating, or being in actual physical control  
 232 ended; or

233 ~~(5)~~(6) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, there is any  
 234 amount of marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined in Code Section 16-13-21,  
 235 present in the person's blood or urine, or both, including the metabolites and derivatives  
 236 of each or both without regard to whether or not any alcohol is present in the person's  
 237 breath or blood.

238 (b) The fact that any person charged with violating this Code section is or has been legally  
 239 entitled to use a drug shall not constitute a defense against any charge of violating this

240 Code section; provided, however, that such person shall not be in violation of this Code  
241 section unless such person is rendered incapable of operating, navigating, steering, driving,  
242 manipulating, or being in actual physical control of a moving vessel, moving water skis,  
243 moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving device safely as a result of using  
244 a drug other than alcohol which such person is legally entitled to use.

245 (c) Upon the trial of any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged  
246 to have been committed by any person while operating, navigating, steering, driving,  
247 manipulating, or being in actual physical control of a moving vessel, moving water skis,  
248 moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving device while under the influence  
249 of alcohol or drugs, evidence of the amount of alcohol or drug in a person's blood, urine,  
250 breath, or other bodily substance at the alleged time, as determined by a chemical analysis  
251 of the person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily ~~substances~~ substance, shall be  
252 admissible. Where such chemical test is made, the following provisions shall apply:

253 (1) Chemical analysis of the person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily substance, to  
254 be considered valid under this Code section, shall have been performed according to  
255 methods approved by the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of  
256 Investigation and by an individual possessing a valid permit issued by the Division of  
257 Forensic Sciences for this purpose. The Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia  
258 Bureau of Investigation is authorized to approve satisfactory techniques or methods to  
259 ascertain the qualifications and competence of individuals to conduct analyses and to  
260 issue permits, which shall be subject to termination or revocation at the discretion of the  
261 Division of Forensic Sciences;

262 (2) When a person ~~shall undergo~~ undergoes a chemical test at the request of a law  
263 enforcement officer under subsection (e) of this Code section, only a physician, registered  
264 nurse, laboratory technician, emergency medical technician, or other qualified person  
265 may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic or drug content therein,  
266 provided that this limitation shall not apply to the taking of breath or urine specimens.  
267 No physician, registered nurse, laboratory technician, emergency medical technician, or  
268 other qualified person or employer thereof shall incur any civil or criminal liability as a  
269 result of the medically proper obtaining of such blood specimens when requested in  
270 writing by a law enforcement officer;

271 (3) The person tested may have a physician or a qualified technician, chemist, registered  
272 nurse, or other qualified person of his or her own choosing administer a chemical test or  
273 tests in addition to any administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer. The  
274 justifiable failure or inability to obtain an additional test shall not preclude the admission  
275 of evidence relating to the test or tests taken at the direction of a law enforcement officer;  
276 and

277 (4) Upon ~~the~~ request of the person who ~~shall submit~~ submits to a chemical test or tests  
 278 at the request of a law enforcement officer, full information concerning ~~the~~ such test or  
 279 tests shall be made available to such person or such person's attorney. The arresting  
 280 officer at the time of arrest shall advise the person arrested of his or her rights to a  
 281 chemical test or tests according to this Code section.

282 (d) Upon the trial of any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged  
 283 to have been committed by any person while operating, navigating, steering, driving,  
 284 manipulating, or being in actual physical control of a moving vessel, moving water skis,  
 285 moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving device while under the influence  
 286 of alcohol, the amount of alcohol in the person's blood at the time alleged, as shown by  
 287 chemical analysis of the person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily substance, shall give  
 288 rise to the following presumptions:

289 (1) If there was at that time an alcohol concentration of 0.05 grams or less, it shall be  
 290 presumed that the person was not under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by  
 291 paragraphs (1), ~~(2), and (3)~~ (4), and (5) of subsection (a) of this Code section;

292 (2) If there was at that time an alcohol concentration in excess of 0.05 grams but less  
 293 than 0.08 grams, such fact shall not give rise to any presumption that the person was or  
 294 was not under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by paragraphs (1), ~~(2), and (3)~~ (4),  
 295 and (5) of subsection (a) of this Code section, but such fact may be considered with other  
 296 competent evidence in determining whether the person was under the influence of  
 297 alcohol, as prohibited by paragraphs (1), ~~(2), and (3)~~ (4), and (5) of subsection (a) of this  
 298 Code section; and

299 ~~(3) If there was at that time an alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams or more, it shall be~~  
 300 ~~presumed that the person was under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by paragraphs~~  
 301 ~~(1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section; and~~

302 ~~(4)~~(3) If there was at that time or within three hours after operating, navigating, steering,  
 303 driving, manipulating, or being in actual physical control of a moving vessel, moving  
 304 water skis, moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving device from alcohol  
 305 consumed before such operating, navigating, steering, driving, manipulating, or being in  
 306 actual physical control ended an alcohol concentration of ~~0.10~~ 0.08 or more grams, the  
 307 person shall be in violation of paragraph ~~(4)~~ (5) of subsection (a) of this Code section.

308 (e) The State of Georgia considers that persons who are under the influence of alcohol,  
 309 toxic vapors, or drugs while operating a vessel on the waters of this state constitute a direct  
 310 and immediate threat to the welfare and safety of the general public. Therefore, any person  
 311 who operates a vessel upon the waters of this state shall be deemed to have given consent,  
 312 subject to ~~subsections (c) and (d)~~ subsection (c) of this Code section, to a chemical test or  
 313 tests of his or her blood, breath, or urine or other bodily ~~substances~~ substance for the

314 purpose of determining the alcoholic or drug content of his or her blood if arrested for any  
315 offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was operating,  
316 navigating, steering, driving, manipulating, or in actual physical control of a moving vessel,  
317 moving water skis, moving aquaplane, moving surfboard, or similar moving device while  
318 under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or any drug. The test or tests shall be  
319 administered at the request of a law enforcement officer having reasonable grounds to  
320 believe that the person has been operating or was in actual physical control of a vessel upon  
321 the waters of this state while under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or any drug.  
322 Subject to ~~subsections (c) and (d)~~ subsection (c) of this Code section, the requesting law  
323 enforcement officer shall designate which of the aforesaid tests shall be administered.

324 (f) Any person who is dead, unconscious, or otherwise in a condition rendering him or her  
325 incapable of refusal shall be deemed not to have withdrawn the consent provided by  
326 subsection (e) of this Code section, and the test or tests may be administered subject to  
327 ~~subsections (c) and (d)~~ subsection (c) of this Code section.

328 (g) If a person refuses, upon the request of a law enforcement officer, to submit to a  
329 chemical test designated by the law enforcement officer as provided in subsection (e) of  
330 this Code section, no test shall be given; however, such refusal shall be admissible in  
331 evidence.

332 (h) In the event of a boating accident involving a fatality, the investigating coroner or  
333 medical examiner having jurisdiction shall direct that a chemical blood test to determine  
334 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) or the presence of drugs be performed on the dead  
335 person or persons and that the results of such test be properly recorded in his or her report.

336 (i) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any vessel knowingly to allow or authorize any  
337 person to operate such vessel or to manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, surfboard, or  
338 similar device being towed by such vessel when the owner knows or has reasonable  
339 grounds to believe that said person is intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, toxic  
340 vapors, or drugs in violation of this Code section.

341 (j) In any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been  
342 committed by any person in violation of subsection (k) of this Code section, if there was  
343 at that time or within three hours after operating, navigating, steering, driving, or being in  
344 actual physical control of a moving vessel or personal watercraft from alcohol consumed  
345 before such operating, navigating, steering, driving, or being in actual physical control  
346 ended an alcohol concentration of 0.02 grams or more in the person's blood, breath, or  
347 urine, the person shall be in violation of subsection (k) of this Code section.

348 (k)(1) A person under the age of 21 years shall not operate, navigate, steer, drive, or be  
349 in actual physical control of any moving vessel, moving water skis, moving aquaplane,  
350 moving surfboard or similar moving device, or personal watercraft while ~~the~~ such

351 person's alcohol concentration is 0.02 grams or more at any time within three hours after  
352 such operating, navigating, steering, driving, or being in actual physical control from  
353 alcohol consumed before such operating, navigating, steering, driving, or being in actual  
354 physical control ended.

355 (2) No plea of nolo contendere shall be accepted for any person under the age of 21 years  
356 charged with a violation of this Code section.

357 (l) A person who violates this Code section while transporting in a moving vessel or  
358 personal watercraft or towing on water skis, an aquaplane, a surfboard, or similar device  
359 a child under the age of 14 years ~~is~~ shall be guilty of the separate offense of endangering  
360 a child by operating a moving vessel or personal watercraft under the influence of alcohol,  
361 toxic vapors, or drugs. The offense of endangering a child by operating a moving vessel  
362 or personal watercraft under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs shall not be  
363 merged with the offense of operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors,  
364 or drugs for the purposes of prosecution and sentencing. An offender who is convicted of  
365 a violation of this subsection shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of  
366 subsection (d) of Code Section 16-12-1, relating to the offense of contributing to the  
367 delinquency, unruliness, or deprivation of a child.

368 (m) Every person convicted of violating this Code section shall, upon a first or second  
369 conviction thereof, be guilty of a misdemeanor; upon a third conviction thereof, be guilty  
370 of a high and aggravated misdemeanor; and upon a fourth or subsequent conviction thereof,  
371 be guilty of a felony except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection and  
372 shall be punished as follows:

373 (1) For the first conviction with no conviction of and no plea of nolo contendere accepted  
374 to a charge of violating this Code section within the previous ten years, as measured from  
375 the dates of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained or pleas of nolo  
376 contendere were accepted to the date of the current arrest for which a conviction is  
377 obtained or a plea of nolo contendere is accepted:

378 (A) A fine of not less than \$300.00 and not more than \$1,000.00, which fine shall not,  
379 except as provided in subsection (n) of this Code section, be subject to suspension, stay,  
380 or probation;

381 (B) A period of imprisonment of not fewer than ten days nor more than 12 months,  
382 which period of imprisonment may, at the sole discretion of the judge, be suspended,  
383 stayed, or probated, except that if the offender's alcohol concentration at the time of the  
384 offense was 0.08 grams or more, the judge may suspend, stay, or probate all but 24  
385 hours of any term of imprisonment imposed under this subparagraph;

386 (C) Not fewer than 40 hours of community service, except that for a conviction for  
387 violation of subsection (k) of this Code section where the person's alcohol concentration

388 at the time of the offense was less than 0.08 grams, the period of community service  
389 shall be not fewer than 20 hours;

390 (D) Completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program as defined in  
391 Code Section 40-5-1. The sponsor of any such program shall provide written notice of  
392 the Department of Drivers Service's approval of the program to the person upon  
393 enrollment in the program;

394 (E) A clinical evaluation as defined in Code Section 40-5-1 and, if recommended as  
395 a part of such evaluation, completion of a substance abuse treatment program as defined  
396 in Code Section 40-5-1; provided, however, that in the court's discretion, such  
397 evaluation may be waived; and

398 (F) If the person is sentenced to a period of imprisonment for fewer than 12 months,  
399 a period of probation of 12 months less any days during which the person is actually  
400 incarcerated;

401 (2) For the second conviction within a ten-year period of time, as measured from the  
402 dates of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained or pleas of nolo contendere  
403 were accepted to the date of the current arrest for which a conviction is obtained or a plea  
404 of nolo contendere is accepted:

405 (A) A fine of not less than \$600.00 and not more than \$1,000.00, which fine shall not,  
406 except as provided in subsection (n) of this Code section, be subject to suspension, stay,  
407 or probation;

408 (B) A period of imprisonment of not fewer than 90 days and not more than 12 months.  
409 The judge shall probate at least a portion of such term of imprisonment, in accordance  
410 with subparagraph (F) of this paragraph, and to such other terms and conditions as the  
411 judge may impose; provided, however, that the offender shall be required to serve not  
412 fewer than 72 hours of actual incarceration;

413 (C) Not fewer than 30 days of community service;

414 (D) Completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program as defined in  
415 Code Section 40-5-1. The sponsor of any such program shall provide written notice of  
416 the Department of Drivers Service's approval of the program to the person upon  
417 enrollment in the program;

418 (E) A clinical evaluation as defined in Code Section 40-5-1 and, if recommended as  
419 a part of such evaluation, completion of a substance abuse treatment program as defined  
420 in Code Section 40-5-1; and

421 (F) A period of probation of 12 months less any days during which the person is  
422 actually incarcerated;

423 (3) For the third conviction within a ten-year period of time, as measured from the dates  
424 of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained or pleas of nolo contendere were

425 accepted to the date of the current arrest for which a conviction is obtained or a plea of  
426 nolo contendere is accepted:

427 (A) A fine of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$5,000.00, which fine shall  
428 not, except as provided in subsection (n) of this Code section, be subject to suspension,  
429 stay, or probation;

430 (B) A mandatory period of imprisonment of not fewer than 120 days and not more than  
431 12 months. The judge shall probate at least a portion of such term of imprisonment, in  
432 accordance with subparagraph (F) of this paragraph, and to such other terms and  
433 conditions as the judge may impose; provided, however, that the offender shall be  
434 required to serve not fewer than 15 days of actual incarceration;

435 (C) Not fewer than 30 days of community service;

436 (D) Completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program as defined in  
437 Code Section 40-5-1. The sponsor of any such program shall provide written notice of  
438 the Department of Drivers Service's approval of the program to the person upon  
439 enrollment in the program;

440 (E) A clinical evaluation as defined in Code Section 40-5-1 and, if recommended as  
441 a part of such evaluation, completion of a substance abuse treatment program as defined  
442 in Code Section 40-5-1; and

443 (F) A period of probation of 12 months less any days during which the person is  
444 actually incarcerated;

445 (4) For the fourth or subsequent conviction within a ten-year period of time, as measured  
446 from the dates of previous arrests for which convictions were obtained or pleas of nolo  
447 contendere were accepted to the date of the current arrest for which a conviction is  
448 obtained or a plea of nolo contendere is accepted:

449 (A) A fine of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$5,000.00, which fine shall  
450 not, except as provided in subsection (n) of this Code section, be subject to suspension,  
451 stay, or probation;

452 (B) A period of imprisonment of not less than one year and not more than five years;  
453 provided, however, that the judge may suspend, stay, or probate all but 90 days of any  
454 term of imprisonment imposed under this paragraph. The judge shall probate at least  
455 a portion of such term of imprisonment, in accordance with subparagraph (F) of this  
456 paragraph, and to such other terms and conditions as the judge may impose;

457 (C) Not fewer than 60 days of community service; provided, however, that if a  
458 defendant is sentenced to serve three years of actual imprisonment, the judge may  
459 suspend the community service;

460 (D) Completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program as defined in  
461 Code Section 40-5-1. The sponsor of any such program shall provide written notice of

462 the Department of Driver Service's approval of the program to the person upon  
 463 enrollment in the program;

464 (E) A clinical evaluation as defined in Code Section 40-5-1 and, if recommended as  
 465 a part of such evaluation, completion of a substance abuse treatment program as defined  
 466 in Code Section 40-5-1; and

467 (F) A period of probation of five years less any days during which the person is  
 468 actually imprisoned;

469 provided, however, that if the ten-year period of time as measured in this paragraph  
 470 commenced prior to May 15, 2013, then such fourth or subsequent conviction shall be a  
 471 misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and punished as provided in paragraph (3)  
 472 of this subsection;

473 (5) For the purpose of imposing a sentence under this subsection, a plea of nolo  
 474 contendere based on a violation of this Code section shall constitute a conviction; and

475 (6) For purposes of determining the number of prior convictions or pleas of nolo  
 476 contendere pursuant to the felony provisions of paragraph (4) of this subsection, only  
 477 those offenses for which a conviction is obtained or a plea of nolo contendere is accepted  
 478 on or after May 15, 2013, shall be considered; provided, however, that nothing in this  
 479 subsection shall be construed as limiting or modifying in any way sentence enhancement  
 480 provisions under Georgia law, including, but not limited to, provisions relating to  
 481 punishment of recidivist offenders pursuant to Title 17.

482 (n)(1) If the payment of the fine required under subsection (m) of this Code section will  
 483 impose an economic hardship on the defendant, the judge, at his or her sole discretion,  
 484 may order the defendant to pay such fine in installments, and such order may be enforced  
 485 through a contempt proceeding or a revocation of any probation otherwise authorized by  
 486 this Code section.

487 (2) In the sole discretion of the judge, he or she may suspend up to one-half of the fine  
 488 imposed under subsection (m) of this Code section conditioned upon the defendant's  
 489 undergoing treatment in a substance abuse treatment program as defined in Code Section  
 490 40-5-1.

491 (o) As used in this Code section, the term 'personal watercraft' shall have the same  
 492 meaning as set forth in Code Section 52-7-8.2."

493 **SECTION 9.**

494 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 52-7-12.5, relating to ordering  
 495 drug or alcohol tests, as follows:

496 "52-7-12.5.

497 (a) The test or tests required under Code Section 52-7-12 shall be administered as soon as  
 498 possible at the request of a law enforcement officer having reasonable grounds to believe  
 499 that the person has been operating or was in actual physical control of a moving vessel  
 500 upon the waters of this state in violation of Code Section 52-7-12 and the officer has  
 501 arrested such person for a violation of Code Section 52-7-12, any federal law in conformity  
 502 with Code Section 52-7-12, or any local ordinance which is identical to Code Section  
 503 52-7-12 in accordance with Code Section 52-7-21 or the person has been involved in a  
 504 boating accident resulting in serious injuries or fatalities. Subject to Code Section 52-7-12,  
 505 the requesting law enforcement officer shall designate which test shall be administered;  
 506 ~~provided that the officer shall require a breath test or a blood test and may require a urine~~  
 507 ~~test initially and may subsequently require a test or tests for any substance not initially~~  
 508 ~~tested.~~

509 (b) At the time a chemical test or tests are requested, the arresting officer shall select and  
 510 read to the person the appropriate implied consent warning from the following:

511 (1) Implied consent notice for suspects under age 21 years of age:

512 'Georgia law requires you to submit to state administered chemical tests of your blood,  
 513 breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining if you are under  
 514 the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse this testing, your privilege to operate  
 515 a vessel on the waters of this state will be suspended for a minimum period of one year.  
 516 Your refusal to submit to the required testing may be offered into evidence against you  
 517 at trial. If you submit to testing; and the results of that test or tests may be used against  
 518 you. ~~If the results of such test or tests indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.02 grams~~  
 519 ~~or more or the presence of any illegal drug, your privilege to operate a vessel on the~~  
 520 ~~waters of this state may be suspended for a minimum period of one year. After first~~  
 521 ~~submitting to the required state tests, you are entitled to additional chemical tests of~~  
 522 ~~your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances at your own expense and from~~  
 523 ~~qualified personnel of your own choosing. Will you submit to the state administered~~  
 524 ~~chemical tests of your (designate which tests) under the implied consent law?'; or~~

525 (2) Implied consent notice for suspects age 21 years of age or over older:

526 'Georgia law requires you to submit to state administered chemical tests of your blood,  
 527 breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining if you are under  
 528 the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse this testing, your privilege to operate  
 529 a vessel on the waters of this state will be suspended for a minimum period of one year.  
 530 Your refusal to submit to the required testing may be offered into evidence against you  
 531 at trial. If you submit to testing; and the results of that test or tests may be used against  
 532 you. ~~If the results of such test or tests indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.10~~ 0.08  
 533 ~~grams or more or the presence of any illegal drug, your privilege to operate a vessel on~~

534 the waters of this state may be suspended for a minimum period of one year. After first  
 535 submitting to the required state tests, you are entitled to additional chemical tests of  
 536 your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances at your own expense and from  
 537 qualified personnel of your own choosing. Will you submit to the state administered  
 538 chemical tests of your (designate which tests) under the implied consent law?'

539 If any such notice is used by a law enforcement officer to advise a person of his or her  
 540 rights regarding the administration of chemical testing, such person shall be deemed to  
 541 have been properly advised of his or her rights under this Code section and under Code  
 542 Section 52-7-12.6, and the results of any chemical test, or the refusal to submit to a test,  
 543 shall be admitted into evidence against such person. ~~This notice shall be deemed~~  
 544 ~~sufficient if such notice read by an arresting officer is substantially complied with~~ Such  
 545 notice shall be read in its entirety but need not be read exactly so long as the substance  
 546 of the notice remains unchanged.

547 ~~(c) Subsection (b) of this Code section shall apply to any case wherein the request for~~  
 548 ~~chemical testing is made regarding an offense committed on or after June 1, 1998.~~  
 549 ~~Subsection (b) of this Code section shall not apply to any case wherein the request for~~  
 550 ~~chemical testing was made regarding an offense committed prior to June 1, 1998, in which~~  
 551 ~~case those provisions of former Code Section 52-7-12 governing the admissibility of~~  
 552 ~~evidence of results of chemical testing or refusal to submit to chemical testing which were~~  
 553 ~~in effect at the time the offense was committed shall apply~~ Nothing in this Code section  
 554 shall be deemed to preclude the acquisition or admission of evidence of a violation of Code  
 555 Section 52-7-12 if such evidence was obtained by voluntary consent or a search warrant  
 556 as authorized by the Constitution or laws of this state or the United States.

557 (d) If a person under arrest or a person who was involved in any boating accident resulting  
 558 in serious injuries or fatalities submits to a chemical test upon the request of a law  
 559 enforcement officer and the test results indicate that a suspension of the privilege of  
 560 operating a vessel on the waters of this state is required under this Code section, the results  
 561 shall be reported to the department. Upon the receipt of a ~~sworn~~ report of the law  
 562 enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe the arrested person  
 563 had been operating or was in actual physical control of a moving vessel upon the waters  
 564 of this state in violation of Code Section 52-7-12 or that such person had been operating  
 565 or was in actual physical control of a moving vessel upon the waters of this state and was  
 566 involved in a boating accident involving serious injuries or fatalities and that the person  
 567 submitted to a chemical test at the request of the law enforcement officer and the test  
 568 results indicate either an alcohol concentration of ~~0.10~~ 0.08 grams or more or, for a person  
 569 under the age of 21 years, an alcohol concentration of 0.02 grams or more, and the vessel  
 570 being operated was a motorized vessel having ten or more horsepower or was a sailboat

571 more than 12 feet in length, the department shall suspend the person's privilege to operate  
572 a vessel upon the waters of this state pursuant to Code Section 52-7-12.6, subject to review  
573 as provided for in this Code section.

574 (e) If a person under arrest or a person who was involved in any boating accident resulting  
575 in serious injuries or fatalities refuses, upon the request of a law enforcement officer, to  
576 submit to a chemical test designated by the law enforcement officer as provided in  
577 subsection (a) of this Code section, no test shall be given; but the law enforcement officer  
578 shall report the refusal to the department. Upon the receipt of a ~~sworn~~ report of the law  
579 enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe the arrested person  
580 had been operating or was in actual physical control of a moving vessel upon the waters  
581 of this state in violation of Code Section 52-7-12 or that such person had been operating  
582 or was in actual physical control of a moving vessel upon the waters of this state and was  
583 involved in a boating accident which resulted in serious injuries or fatalities and that the  
584 person had refused to submit to the test upon the request of the law enforcement officer,  
585 and the vessel being operated was a motorized vessel having ten or more horsepower or  
586 was a sailboat more than 12 feet in length, the department shall suspend the person's  
587 privilege of operating a vessel on the waters of this state for a period of one year.

588 (f)(1) The law enforcement officer, acting on behalf of the department, shall personally  
589 serve the notice of intention to suspend or disqualify the privilege of operating a vessel  
590 on the waters of this state of the arrested person or other person refusing such test on such  
591 person at the time of the person's refusal to submit to a test or at the time at which such  
592 a test indicates that suspension or disqualification is required under this Code section.  
593 The officer shall forward to the department the notice of intent to suspend and the ~~sworn~~  
594 report required by subsection (d) or (e) of this Code section within ten calendar days after  
595 the date of the arrest of such person. The failure of the officer to transmit the sworn  
596 report required by this Code section within ten calendar days shall not prevent the  
597 department from accepting such report and utilizing it in the suspension of an operator's  
598 privilege as provided in this Code section.

599 (2) If notice has not been given by the arresting officer, the department, upon receipt of  
600 the ~~sworn~~ report of such officer, shall suspend the person's privilege to operate a vessel  
601 and, by regular mail, at the last known address, notify such person of such suspension.  
602 The notice shall inform the person of the grounds of suspension, the effective date of the  
603 suspension, and the right to review. The notice shall be deemed received three days after  
604 mailing.

605 (g)(1) A person whose operator's privilege is suspended pursuant to this Code section  
606 shall request, in writing, a hearing within ten business days from the date of personal  
607 notice or receipt of notice sent by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return

608 receipt requested, or the right to said hearing shall be deemed waived. Within 30 days  
609 after receiving a written request for a hearing, the department shall hold a hearing as is  
610 provided in Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.' The  
611 hearing shall be recorded. For purposes of such hearing, a copy of the report required by  
612 subsection (d) or (e) of this Code section shall be made a part of the hearing record and  
613 shall create a rebuttable presumption that the vessel being operated was a motorized  
614 vessel having ten or more horsepower or was a sailboat more than 12 feet in length.

615 (2) The scope of the hearing shall be limited to the following issues:

616 (A)(i) Whether the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe the  
617 person was operating or in actual physical control of a moving vessel while under the  
618 influence of alcohol or a controlled substance and was lawfully placed under arrest  
619 for violating Code Section 52-7-12.

620 (ii) Whether the person was involved in a vessel accident or collision resulting in  
621 serious injury or fatality;

622 (B) Whether at the time of the request for the test or tests the officer informed the  
623 person of the person's implied consent rights and the consequence of submitting or  
624 refusing to submit to such test and:

625 (i) Whether the person refused the test; or

626 (ii) Whether a test or tests were administered and the results indicated an alcohol  
627 concentration of ~~0.10~~ 0.08 grams or more or, for a person under the age of 21 years,  
628 an alcohol concentration of 0.02 grams or more; and

629 (C) Whether the test or tests were properly administered by an individual possessing  
630 a valid permit issued by the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of  
631 Investigation on an instrument approved by the Division of Forensic Sciences or a test  
632 conducted by the Division of Forensic Sciences, including whether the machine at the  
633 time of the test was operated with all its electronic and operating components  
634 prescribed by its manufacturer properly attached and in good working order, which  
635 shall be required. A copy of the operator's permit showing that the operator has been  
636 trained on the particular type of instrument used and one of the original copies of the  
637 test results or, where the test is performed by the Division of Forensic Sciences, a copy  
638 of the crime lab report shall satisfy the requirements of this subparagraph.

639 (3) The hearing officer shall, within five calendar days after such hearing, forward a  
640 decision to the department to rescind or sustain the suspension of the person's privilege  
641 to operate a vessel on the waters of this state. If no hearing is requested within the ten  
642 business days specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection, and the failure to request such  
643 hearing is due in whole or in part to the reasonably avoidable fault of the person, the right  
644 to a hearing shall have been waived. The request for a hearing shall not stay the

645 suspension of the person's privilege to operate a vessel on the waters of this state;  
 646 provided, however, that if the hearing is timely requested and is not held within 60 days  
 647 and the delay is not due in whole or in part to the reasonably avoidable fault of the  
 648 person, the suspension shall be stayed until such time as the hearing is held and the  
 649 hearing officer's decision is made.

650 (4) In the event the person is acquitted of a violation of Code Section 52-7-12 or such  
 651 charge is initially disposed of other than by a conviction or plea of nolo contendere, then  
 652 the suspension shall be terminated. An accepted plea of nolo contendere shall be entered  
 653 on the operator's record and shall be considered and counted as a conviction for purposes  
 654 of any future violations of Code Section 52-7-12.

655 (h) If the suspension is sustained after such a hearing, the person whose privilege to  
 656 operate a vessel on the waters of this state has been suspended under this Code section shall  
 657 have a right to file for a judicial review of the department's final decision, as provided for  
 658 in Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act'; while such appeal  
 659 is pending, the order of the department shall not be stayed.

660 (i) Each time an approved breath-testing instrument is inspected, the inspector shall  
 661 prepare a certificate which shall be signed under oath by the inspector and which shall  
 662 include the following language:

663 "This breath-testing instrument (serial no. \_\_\_\_\_) was thoroughly inspected, tested,  
 664 and standardized by the undersigned on (date \_\_\_\_\_) and all of its electronic and  
 665 operating components prescribed by its manufacturer are properly attached and are in  
 666 good working order.'

667 When properly prepared and executed, as prescribed in this subsection, the certificate shall,  
 668 notwithstanding any other provision of law, be self-authenticating, shall be admissible in  
 669 any court of law, and shall satisfy the pertinent requirements of paragraph (1) of subsection  
 670 (c) of Code Section 52-7-12 and subparagraph (g)(2)(C) of this Code section."

671 **SECTION 10.**

672 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 52-7-12.6, relating to terms of  
 673 suspension, as follows:

674 "52-7-12.6.

675 (a) Any operator's privilege to operate a vessel on the waters of this state required to be  
 676 suspended under subsection (d) of Code Section 52-7-12.5 shall be suspended subject to  
 677 the following terms and conditions:

678 (1) Upon the first suspension pursuant to subsection (d) of Code Section 52-7-12.5  
 679 within the previous five years, as measured from the dates of previous arrests for which  
 680 a suspension was obtained to the date of the current arrest for which a suspension is

681 obtained, the period of suspension shall be for one year. Not sooner than ~~30~~ 120 days  
682 following the effective date of suspension, the person may apply to the department for  
683 reinstatement of his or her operator's privilege. Such privilege shall be reinstated if such  
684 person submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction  
685 Program approved by the Department of Driver Services and pays a restoration fee of  
686 \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist conviction, in which case the restoration  
687 fee shall be \$500.00. An operator's privilege suspended pursuant to Code Section  
688 52-7-12.5 shall remain suspended until such person submits proof of completion of a DUI  
689 Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program approved by the Department of Driver  
690 Services and pays a restoration fee of \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist  
691 conviction, in which case the restoration fee shall be \$500.00;

692 (2) Upon the second suspension pursuant to subsection (d) of Code Section 52-7-12.5  
693 within five years, as measured from the dates of previous arrests for which suspensions  
694 were obtained to the date of the current arrest for which a suspension is obtained, the  
695 period of suspension shall be for three years. Not sooner than ~~120 days~~ 18 months  
696 following the effective date of suspension, the person may apply to the department for  
697 reinstatement of the person's operator's privilege. Such privilege shall be reinstated if  
698 such person submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction  
699 Program approved by the Department of Driver Services and pays a restoration fee of  
700 \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist conviction, in which case the restoration  
701 fee shall be \$500.00. An operator's privilege suspended pursuant to Code Section  
702 52-7-12.5 shall remain suspended until such person submits proof of completion of a DUI  
703 Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program approved by the Department of Driver  
704 Services and pays a restoration fee of \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist  
705 conviction, in which case the restoration fee shall be \$500.00; and

706 (3) Upon the third or subsequent suspension pursuant to subsection (d) of Code Section  
707 52-7-12.5 within five years, as measured from the dates of previous arrests for which  
708 suspensions were obtained to the date of the current arrest for which a suspension is  
709 obtained, the period of suspension shall be for not less than five years and until such  
710 person submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction  
711 Program approved by the Department of Driver Services and pays a restoration fee of  
712 \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist conviction, in which case the restoration  
713 fee shall be \$500.00; and

714 (4) Any person convicted of violating Code Section 52-7-12.2, 52-7-12.3, or 52-7-12.4  
715 shall have his or her privilege to operate a vessel on the waters of this state suspended for  
716 three years. Such privilege shall be reinstated after the expiration of the three-year period  
717 if such person submits proof of completion of a boating education course approved by the

718 department and pays a restoration fee of \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist  
 719 conviction, in which case the restoration fee shall be \$500.00.

720 (b) In all cases in which the department may return the privilege to operate a vessel on the  
 721 waters of this state to an operator prior to the termination of the full period of suspension,  
 722 the department may require such tests of operating skill and knowledge as it determines to  
 723 be proper, and the department's discretion shall be guided by the operator's past operating  
 724 record and performance and the operator's payment of a restoration fee of \$200.00, unless  
 725 such conviction was a recidivist conviction, in which case the restoration fee shall be  
 726 \$500.00.

727 (c) Any person who operates a vessel or personal watercraft on any of the waters of this  
 728 state at a time when such person's privilege to do so has been suspended shall be guilty of  
 729 a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than  
 730 \$1,000.00; provided, however, that for a second and each subsequent conviction within a  
 731 five-year period measured from the date of the previous arrest upon which a conviction was  
 732 obtained to the date of the current arrest, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of  
 733 a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 nor  
 734 more than \$1,500.00. The period suspension of the privilege to operate a vessel on the  
 735 waters of the state of any person convicted under this subsection shall be extended for an  
 736 additional six months for each such conviction."

737 **SECTION 11.**

738 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 52-7-22, relating to safety and  
 739 educational programs, as follows:

740 "52-7-22.

741 (a) The department is authorized to inaugurate a comprehensive boating safety and boating  
 742 shall establish a comprehensive boating education program and ~~to~~ may seek the  
 743 cooperation of boatmen, the federal government, and other states. The department may  
 744 accept moneys made available under federal safety programs and may issue safety boating  
 745 certificates to persons who complete courses in boating ~~safety~~ education.

746 (b) Effective July 1, 2014, and except as otherwise provided by this chapter, anyone born  
 747 on or after January 1, 1998, who operates any motorized vessel on the waters of this state  
 748 shall complete a boating education course approved by the department prior to the  
 749 operation of such vessel.

750 (c) A person shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section if  
 751 he or she is:

752 (1) Licensed by the United States Coast Guard as a master of a vessel;

753 (2) Operating such vessel on a private lake or pond; or

754 (3) A nonresident who has in his or her possession proof that he or she has completed a  
 755 National Association of State Boat Licensed Administrators approved boater education  
 756 course or the equivalency from another state."

757 **SECTION 12.**

758 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 52-7-26, relating to penalty for  
 759 violations relative to registration, operation, and sale of watercraft generally, as follows:

760 "52-7-26.

761 Except as otherwise provided in this article, any person who violates this article or any rule  
 762 or regulation promulgated hereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For purposes of  
 763 establishing criminal violations of the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of  
 764 Natural Resources as provided in this article, the term 'rules and regulations' ~~shall mean~~  
 765 means those rules and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources in force and effect on  
 766 ~~January 1, 2012~~ February 5, 2013."

767 **SECTION 13.**

768 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 52-7-51, relating  
 769 to penalty for violations relative to displaying of watercraft information, as follows:

770 "(a) Any person who violates this article or any rules and regulations issued hereunder  
 771 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For purposes of establishing criminal violations of the  
 772 rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources as provided in this  
 773 article, the term 'rules and regulations' ~~shall mean~~ means those rules and regulations of the  
 774 Board of Natural Resources in force and effect on ~~January 1, 2012~~ February 5, 2013."

775 **SECTION 14.**

776 This Act shall become effective on May 15, 2013, and shall apply to all offenses occurring  
 777 on or after May 15, 2013; provided, however, that for purposes of determining the number  
 778 of prior convictions or pleas of nolo contendere pursuant to the felony provisions of  
 779 paragraph (4) of subsection (m) of Code Section 52-7-12, only those offenses for which a  
 780 conviction or a plea of nolo contendere is obtained on or after May 15, 2013, shall be  
 781 considered.

782 **SECTION 15.**

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