Senate Bill 134

By: Senators Cagle of the 49th, Jackson of the 50th and Unterman of the 45th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to registration, operation, and sale of watercraft, so as to change certain provisions relating to definitions; to change certain provisions relating to classification of vessels and required equipment; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to registration, operation, and sale of watercraft, is amended by striking paragraph (22) of Code Section 52-7-3, relating to definitions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(22) 'Reportable boating accident' means an accident, collision, or other casualty involving a vessel subject to this article which results in loss of life, injury sufficient to cause incapacitation for at least 24 hours, or actual physical damage to property, including vessels, in excess of ~~$500.00~~ $2,000.00."

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended by striking paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of Code Section 52-7-8, relating to classification of vessels and required equipment, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(1) Every vessel shall be equipped with and carry aboard, at all times, at least one Type I, II, III, or V (hybrid) personal flotation device for each person on board; provided, however, Type V (hybrid) devices are acceptable only when worn and securely fastened. In addition to the individual personal flotation device, each vessel 16 feet or more in length, except for ~~personal watercraft, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Code~~

~~Section 52-7-8.2,~~ canoes~~,~~ and kayaks, must at all times be equipped with at least one Type IV (throwable) device.″

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.