BOATS/BOATING. Provides for boating safety instruction. (8/1/22)

AN ACT
To enact R.S. 34:851.36(B)(3), relative to vessels; to provide for the operation of motorboats; to provide for boating safety classes; to provide for exceptions; to provide for boat liveries; to provide for terms and conditions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 34:851.36(B)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§851.36. Boating safety education required

B. A person who is eighteen years of age or older may operate a motorboat if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The person operates a motorboat rented from a boat livery.
(b) The rental contract specifies the following:
   (i) The operator has been instructed in the proper and safe operation of the motorboat by the lessor or the authorized agent of the lessor.
   (ii) The operator receives the latest publication from the Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries that informs residents and nonresidents as to rules, regulations, and safety pertaining to recreational boating.

(c) The parties shall sign the rental contract and comply with the terms of the rental contract.

(d) The operator shall sign a statement that the operator is not currently under suspension or revocation of the privilege to operate a watercraft upon the waters of this state or any other state.

* * *

The original instrument was prepared by Tyler McCloud. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jacob Wilson.

DIGEST
SB 424 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Stine

Present law provides that no person born after Jan. 1, 1984, can operate a motorboat powered by a motor in excess of 10 horsepower unless he has successfully completed a boating safety class approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Proposed law exempts from the boating safety class requirement a person 18 years of age or older if operating a rented motorboat, provided the rental contract specifies that the operator has been instructed in proper and safe operation of the vessel and receives the latest department publication on recreational boating rules, regulations, and safety, the parties sign and comply with terms of the contract, and the operator signs a statement that he is not currently under suspension or revocation of the privilege to operate a watercraft upon the waters of this state or any other state.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 34:851.36(B)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Requires that the operator receives the latest Department of Wildlife and Fisheries publication on recreational boating rules, regulations, and safety.