
DIGEST

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Lambert

HB No. 291

Abstract: Prohibits possession of any alcoholic beverage by any person under 21 years of age on a waterway and prohibits careless operation of a watercraft.

Present law prohibits any person under 21 years of age to purchase or to have public possession of any alcoholic beverage.

Present law defines "public possession" as the possession of any alcoholic beverage for any reason, including consumption, on any street or highway or in any public place or any place open to the public, including a club which is de facto open to the public.

Present law excludes from the definition of "public possession" the following:

- (1) The possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage for an established religious purpose; when a person under 21 years of age is accompanied by a parent, spouse, or legal guardian 21 years of age or older; for medical purposes; or in private residences.
- (2) The sale, handling, transport, or service in dispensing of any alcoholic beverage pursuant to lawful ownership of an establishment or to lawful employment of a person under 21 years of age by a duly licensed manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer of beverage alcohol.

Proposed law retains present law except adds waterways into the definition of public possession.

Present law provides for careless and reckless operation of a watercraft as an aggravating circumstance as an element to the crime of aggravated flight from an officer.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the crime of careless operation of a watercraft is the operation of any watercraft in a careless or heedless manner so as to be grossly indifferent to the person or property of other persons or at a rate of speed greater than will permit him in the exercise of reasonable care to bring the watercraft to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

Proposed law requires that any person operating a watercraft shall operate in a careful and prudent manner, so as not to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person and failure to do so shall constitute careless operation.

Present law provides that the punishment for careless operation shall be a fine of not more than \$300 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for the crime of reckless operation of a watercraft in Title 34 and reckless operation of a vehicle, which included reckless operation of a vessel in Title 14.

Proposed law repeals reckless operation of a watercraft in Title 34.

(Amends R.S. 14:93.10(2)(intro. para.) and 108.1(D)(4) and R.S. 34:851.4; Repeals R.S. 34:851.5)