
SENATE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Senator Amedee to Reengrossed House Bill No. 291 by Representative Lambert

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 Delete Senate Committee Amendment Nos. 2 and 6 proposed by the Senate Committee on
3 Natural Resources and adopted by the Senate on June 1, 2011.

4 AMENDMENT NO. 2

5 In Senate Committee Amendment No. 7 proposed by the Senate Committee on Natural
6 Resources and adopted by the Senate on June 1, 2011, on page 1, delete lines 24 through 38
7 and delete page 2, and insert:

8 "§851.4. Careless operation of a watercraft

9 ~~Any person who shall operate any watercraft in a careless or heedless manner~~
10 ~~so as to be grossly indifferent to the person or property of other persons or at a rate~~
11 ~~of speed greater than will permit him in the exercise of reasonable care to bring the~~
12 ~~watercraft to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead shall be guilty of the~~
13 ~~crime of careless operation, punishable by a fine of not more than three hundred~~
14 ~~dollars, or by imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or by both.~~

15 A. Careless operation of a watercraft is the failure to operate a watercraft in
16 a careful and prudent manner so as to not endanger the life, limb, or property of any
17 person, when such failure constitutes a violation of any of the following
18 requirements:

19 (1) Vessels passing head-on shall each keep to their respective right.

20 (2) A vessel overtaking another vessel may do so on either side, but must
21 grant the right-of-way to the vessel being overtaken.

22 (3) When vessels are on paths that cross, the vessel on the left will yield
23 right-of-way to vessel on the right.

24 (4) Motorboats shall yield right-of-way to non-motor powered boats, except
25 when being overtaken by non-powered vessels, for deep draft vessels that have to
26 remain in narrow channels, or when vessel is towing another vessel.

27 (5) Motorboats must maintain a direct course when passing sailboats.

28 (6) A vessel approaching a landing dock or pier shall yield the right-of-way
29 to any departing vessel.

30 (7) A vessel departing shoreline or tributary shall yield right-of-way to
31 through traffic and vessels approaching shoreline or tributary.

32 (8) Vessels will not abruptly change course without first determining that it
33 can be safely done without risk of collision with another vessel.

34 (9) If an operator fails to fully comprehend the course of an approaching
35 vessel he must slow down immediately to a speed barely sufficient for steerageway
36 until the other vessel has passed.

37 (10) Vessels yielding right-of-way shall reduce speed, stop, reverse, or alter
38 course to avoid collision. Vessel with right-of-way shall hold course and speed. If
39 there is danger of collision, all vessels will slow down, stop, or reverse until danger
40 is averted.

41 (11) Vessels will issue warning signals in fog or weather conditions that
42 restrict visibility.

43 (12) No mechanically propelled vessel shall be operated so as to traverse a
44 course around any other vessel underway or any person swimming.

45 (13) In a narrow channel, vessels will keep to the right of mid-channel.

46 (14) Vessels approaching or passing another vessel shall be operated in such
47 manner and at such a rate of speed as will not create a hazardous wash or wake.

48 (15) A seaplane on the water shall in general keep clear of all vessels and
49 avoid impeding the navigation of all vessels.

- 1 (16) All vessels shall be operated at reasonable speeds for given conditions
2 and situations and must be under the complete control of the operator at all times.
3 (17) No person shall, under any circumstances, operate a vessel in excess of
4 an established speed or wake zone.
5 (18) No vessel or person shall obstruct or block a navigation channel,
6 entrance to channel, mooring slip, landing dock, launching ramp, pier or tributary.
7 (19) Vessels shall keep at least 100 feet clearance of displayed diver's flag.
8 (20) Operator shall maintain a proper lookout.
9 B. Whoever commits the crime of careless operation of a watercraft shall be
10 fined not more than three hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more than thirty
11 days, or both."