



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 241**

**Public Act No. 22-144**

**AN ACT CONCERNING BOATING SAFETY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 15-136 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

(a) Any town, by ordinance, may make local regulations respecting the operation of vessels on any body of water within its territorial limits. Upon adoption, each such ordinance shall be submitted to the commissioner and, if not disapproved by [him within sixty days thereafter] the commissioner not later than sixty days after such submission, shall take effect as provided in subsection (c) of this section. The commissioner may disapprove any ordinance or part thereof [which he] that the commissioner finds to be arbitrary, unreasonable, unnecessarily restrictive, inimical to uniformity, duplicative of any state law or regulation or inconsistent with the policy of this part.

Sec. 2. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 15-154 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

(d) Upon the immediate approach of a law enforcement vessel using

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an audible signal device [and] or flashing blue lights, or a fire rescue vessel using an audible signal device [and] or flashing red or yellow lights, any person operating a vessel shall immediately slow to a speed sufficient to maintain steerage only, shall alter course, within its ability, so as not to inhibit or interfere with the operation of the law enforcement vessel or fire rescue vessel, and shall proceed, unless otherwise directed by an officer in the law enforcement vessel or fire rescue vessel, at a reduced speed until beyond the area of operation of the law enforcement vessel or fire rescue vessel. Any person operating a vessel who wilfully or negligently obstructs or retards any law enforcement or fire rescue vessel answering an emergency call or in pursuit of fleeing law violators shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

(e) Any person operating a vessel passing within two hundred feet of a stationary law enforcement vessel using an audible signal device [and] or flashing blue lights, or a stationary fire rescue vessel using flashing red or yellow lights shall reduce speed to a speed of slow-no-wake until there is a distance of more than two hundred feet between such person's vessel and the law enforcement vessel or fire rescue vessel. Any person operating a vessel passing within two hundred feet of a commercial vessel responding to or towing a vessel in distress when such commercial vessel is displaying flashing red or yellow lights shall reduce speed to a speed of slow-no-wake. For purposes of this subsection, "slow-no-wake" means operation of a vessel at a speed that does not produce more than a minimum wake and is not greater than six miles per hour over ground, unless a higher minimum speed is necessary to maintain steerage when traveling with a strong current.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish a schedule of retention fees for lake authorities that provides for the amount of any fine issued by such authority, to any person who violates the boating laws of the state upon such lake, that such authority may retain.

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