

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 108(FIN) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amended: 2/28/00

Offered: 2/9/00

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HUDSON, Halcro, Phillips, Kerttula, Cowdery, Murkowski, Bunde, Cissna, Joule

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the use, operation, and regulation of boats; establishing a
2 uniform state waterway marking system; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new
5 section to read:

6 INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that

7 (1) at least 75 percent of any federal funds generated as a result of this Act
8 be used to fund a statewide boating safety and education program, and that the state program
9 operate in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary boating safety program
10 and other marine education organizations; and

11 (2) any amendment made on or after the effective date of this section and
12 before the date the delayed repeal and reenactment provisions of this Act take effect that is
13 made to existing law affected by the delayed repeal and reenactment provisions of this Act
14 will also be repealed when those provisions take effect.

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 05.25.010 is repealed and reenacted to read:

2 **Sec. 05.25.010. Safety requirements.** (a) Except as otherwise provided by
3 law, a boat placed on the water of the state

4 (1) must be equipped with and use the sound producing devices and
5 visual distress signals of the same number, type, and specifications as required by the
6 United States Coast Guard;

7 (2) that is equipped with a gasoline engine for electrical generation,
8 mechanical power, or mechanical propulsion must also be equipped with the
9 ventilation systems and backfire flame control devices of the same type and
10 specifications as required by the United States Coast Guard; and

11 (3) that is equipped with an engine for electrical generation, mechanical
12 power, or mechanical propulsion must also be equipped with the fire extinguishers of
13 the same number, type, and specifications as required by the United States Coast
14 Guard.

15 (b) The provisions of (a) of this section apply regardless of whether the boat
16 is placed or operated on water of the state subject to federal jurisdiction.

17 (c) During the period of time extending from sunset to sunrise and during
18 periods of restricted visibility, a boat placed on water of the state must display lights
19 of the same number, type, and specifications as required by the United States Coast
20 Guard under 33 U.S.C. 1602 and 33 U.S.C. 2002.

21 (d) A boat on water of the state must carry one United States Coast Guard
22 approved Type I, Type II, or Type III personal flotation device in serviceable condition
23 for each person on board the boat. A Type V personal flotation device may be carried
24 in lieu of a personal flotation device required in this subsection if the Type V personal
25 flotation device is in serviceable condition and

26 (1) if the approval label on the Type V personal flotation device
27 indicates that the device is approved for the activity in which the boat is being used,
28 or that the device is approved as a substitute for a personal flotation device of the type
29 required on the boat; and

30 (2) for a device that contains a reference to an owner's manual, if the
31 Type V personal flotation device is used in accordance with the requirements in the

1 owner's manual.

2 (e) In addition to the requirements in (d) of this section, a boat that is 16 feet
3 or longer, other than a kayak or canoe, must carry one Type IV personal flotation
4 device that can be thrown and that is approved by the United States Coast Guard.

5 (f) A person may not use a flashing or revolving red or blue emergency light
6 on a boat unless the boat is operated by a peace officer or emergency professional in
7 the performance of official duties.

8 (g) The operator of a boat on water of the state may not transport a person
9 under 13 years of age on the deck of a boat or in an open boat unless the person is
10 wearing a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, Type II, or Type III personal
11 flotation device. A Type V personal flotation device may be worn in lieu of a
12 personal flotation device required in this subsection if the Type V personal flotation
13 device is in serviceable condition and

14 (1) if the approval label on the Type V personal flotation device
15 indicates that the device is approved for the activity in which the boat is being used,
16 or that the device is approved as a substitute for a personal flotation device of the type
17 required on the boat; and

18 (2) for a device that contains a reference to an owner's manual, if the
19 Type V personal flotation device is used in accordance with the requirements in the
20 owner's manual.

21 (h) The department may require, by regulation, that a boat or class of boats
22 carry additional equipment that is necessary for the safety of persons and property.

23 * **Sec. 3.** AS 05.25.010 is repealed and reenacted to read:

24 **Sec. 05.25.010. Safety requirements.** (a) A watercraft operated on inland
25 water must carry and exhibit between sunset and sunrise at least one white light to
26 show all around the horizon.

27 (b) A watercraft operated on inland water must carry at least one life
28 preserver, lifebelt, ring buoy, or other device approved by the United States Coast
29 Guard for each person on board, so placed as to be readily accessible. A watercraft
30 carrying passengers for hire must carry, so placed as to be readily accessible, at least
31 one life preserver approved by the United States Coast Guard for passenger-carrying

1 watercraft for each person on board.

2 (c) A motor-driven watercraft operated for hire must carry a fire extinguisher
3 capable of promptly and effectually extinguishing burning gasoline.

4 (d) The operator of a watercraft on the water of the state may not transport a
5 person under 13 years of age on the deck of a watercraft or in an open watercraft
6 unless the person is wearing a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, Type II,
7 or Type III flotation device. In this subsection, "personal flotation device" does not
8 include a life belt or life ring.

9 * **Sec. 4.** AS 05.25.020 is amended to read:

10 **Sec. 05.25.020. Use of boat with water [WATER] skis and surfboards.** (a)

11 A person may not operate a **boat** [WATERCRAFT] on **water** [THE INLAND
12 WATERS] of **the** [THIS] state for towing a person on water skis, [OR] a surfboard,
13 or **a** similar **device** [DEVICES] unless

14 (1) the **boat** [WATERCRAFT] is equipped with a rearview mirror in
15 which the person being towed can be viewed; [,] or

16 (2) there is, in the **boat**, [WATERCRAFT] a person of 12 years of age
17 or older in addition to the operator [,] in a position to observe the progress of the
18 person being towed.

19 (b) A person may not operate a **boat** [WATERCRAFT] on [THE] water of the
20 state to tow a person under 13 years of age on water skis, a surfboard, or **a** similar
21 device unless the person being towed is wearing a United States Coast Guard approved

22 **(1) Type I, Type II, or Type III personal flotation device; or**

23 **(2) Type V personal flotation device if the Type V personal**
24 **flotation device is in serviceable condition and**

25 **(A) if the approval label on the Type V personal flotation**
26 **device indicates that the device is approved for the activity;**

27 **(B) for a device that contains a reference to an owner's**
28 **manual, if the Type V personal flotation device is used in accordance with**
29 **the requirements in the owner's manual** [. IN THIS SUBSECTION,
30 "PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE" DOES NOT INCLUDE A LIFE BELT
31 OR LIFE RING].

1 * **Sec. 5.** AS 05.25.020 is repealed and reenacted to read:

2 **Sec. 05.25.020. Water skis and surfboards.** (a) A person may not operate
3 a watercraft on inland water of the state for towing a person on water skis, a surfboard,
4 or similar devices unless

5 (1) the watercraft is equipped with a rearview mirror in which the
6 person being towed can be viewed; or

7 (2) there is in the watercraft a person of 12 years of age or older in
8 addition to the operator in a position to observe the progress of the person being
9 towed.

10 (b) A person may not operate a watercraft on water of the state to tow a
11 person under 13 years of age on water skis, a surfboard, or a similar device unless the
12 person being towed is wearing a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, Type II,
13 or Type III personal flotation device. In this subsection, "personal flotation device"
14 does not include a life belt or life ring.

15 * **Sec. 6.** AS 05.25.030 is repealed and reenacted to read:

16 **Sec. 05.25.030. Boat collisions, accidents, and casualties.** (a) The operator
17 of a boat involved in a collision, accident, or casualty shall

18 (1) render assistance as is practicable and necessary to save other
19 persons from danger or to minimize the danger to other persons to the extent that the
20 operator can do so without serious danger to the operator's boat, crew, and passengers;
21 and

22 (2) give the operator's name, address, and identification number of the
23 operator's boat in writing to each person injured in the collision, accident, or casualty
24 and to the owner of property damaged in the collision, accident, or casualty.

25 (b) For the purpose of gathering boating accident statistics, the operator of a
26 boat involved in a collision, accident, or casualty that results in death or injury to a
27 person, or damage to property in excess of \$500 for each incident, shall file a report
28 with the department on or before the 20th day after the incident. The department shall
29 prepare a form for the report and make the form available to other agencies and to the
30 public.

31 (c) In response to a request from an authorized official or agency of the United

1 States, a law enforcement agency, or in compliance with United States Coast Guard
 2 regulations, the department shall provide statistical information compiled or otherwise
 3 available to the department from the reports required under (b) of this section.

4 * **Sec. 7.** AS 05.25.030 is repealed and reenacted to read:

5 **Sec. 05.25.030. Collisions, accidents, and casualties.** (a) The operator of a
 6 watercraft involved in a collision, accident, or casualty shall give to other persons
 7 affected by the collision, accident, or casualty assistance that is necessary to save them
 8 from or minimize any danger caused by the collision, accident, or casualty, and shall
 9 give the operator's name, address, and identification of the operator's watercraft in
 10 writing to any person injured and to the owner of any property damaged in the
 11 collision, accident, or casualty.

12 (b) In the case of collision, accident, or casualty involving a watercraft, the
 13 operator of the watercraft, if the collision, accident, or casualty results in death or
 14 injury to a person or damage to property in excess of \$100, shall file with the
 15 department a full description of the collision, accident, or casualty, including
 16 information the department, by regulation, requires.

17 * **Sec. 8.** AS 05.25.040 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 05.25.040. Owner's civil liability.** The owner of a **boat**
 19 [WATERCRAFT] is liable for injury or damage caused by the negligent operation of
 20 the owner's **boat** [WATERCRAFT] whether the negligence consists of a violation of
 21 a state statute [,] or **the failure** [NEGLECTING] to **exercise** [OBSERVE] ordinary
 22 care in the operation of the **boat** [WATERCRAFT] as the rules of the common law
 23 require. The owner is not liable, however, unless the **boat** [WATERCRAFT] is used
 24 with the owner's express or implied consent. It is presumed that the **boat**
 25 [WATERCRAFT] is being operated with the knowledge and consent of the owner [,]
 26 if, at the time of the injury or damage, it is under the control of the owner's spouse,
 27 father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other member of the owner's immediate
 28 family. This chapter does not relieve any other person from a liability that the person
 29 would otherwise incur [,] and does not authorize or permit recovery in excess of injury
 30 or damage actually incurred.

31 * **Sec. 9.** AS 05.25.040 is repealed and reenacted to read:

1 **Sec. 05.25.040. Owner's civil liability.** The owner of a watercraft is liable
 2 for injury or damage caused by the negligent operation of the owner's watercraft
 3 whether the negligence consists of a violation of a state statute or neglecting to observe
 4 ordinary care in the operation of the watercraft as the rules of the common law require.
 5 The owner is not liable, however, unless the watercraft is used with the owner's
 6 express or implied consent. It is presumed that the watercraft is being operated with
 7 the knowledge and consent of the owner if, at the time of the injury or damage, it is
 8 under the control of the owner's spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter,
 9 or other member of the owner's immediate family. This chapter does not relieve any
 10 other person from a liability that the person would otherwise incur and does not
 11 authorize or permit recovery in excess of injury or damage actually incurred.

12 * **Sec. 10.** AS 05.25.050 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 05.25.050. Declaration of policy.** It is the policy of the [THIS] state to
 14 promote safety for persons and property in and connected with the use, operation, and
 15 equipment of boats on water of the state [VESSELS IN RECREATIONAL
 16 PURSUITS IN INLAND WATERS] and to promote uniformity of laws relating to
 17 boat safety [THERETO].

18 * **Sec. 11.** AS 05.25.050 is repealed and reenacted to read:

19 **Sec. 05.25.050. Declaration of policy.** It is the policy of this state to promote
 20 safety for persons and property in and connected with the use, operation, and
 21 equipment of vessels in recreational pursuits in inland water and to promote uniformity
 22 of laws relating thereto.

23 * **Sec. 12.** AS 05.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

24 **Sec. 05.25.052. Uniform state waterway marking system.** The department
 25 shall develop and adopt regulations establishing a uniform state waterway marking
 26 system for the placement of regulatory markers. The regulations must be compatible
 27 with the system of aids to navigation prescribed by the United States Coast Guard.

28 **Sec. 05.25.053. Boating safety program.** (a) The department shall administer
 29 a statewide boating safety program. The program must, to the extent consistent with
 30 state law,

31 (1) secure the full benefits available to the state under 46 U.S.C. 13101

1 - 13110 (Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971); and

2 (2) take additional actions necessary to gain initial and ongoing federal
3 acceptance of the boating safety program and to qualify and apply for federal money
4 under 46 U.S.C. 13102.

5 (b) The department shall cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies,
6 private and public organizations, and individuals to provide for

7 (1) a statewide boating safety education program; the program must

8 (A) develop educational materials relevant to the unique needs
9 of urban and rural boaters in this state;

10 (B) support statewide boating safety training programs;

11 (C) support boating safety education and training programs for
12 children and other high risk groups;

13 (D) train, certify, and support boating safety instructors;

14 (E) evaluate, on an ongoing basis, the effectiveness of programs
15 funded under this chapter;

16 (2) a boat registration and numbering system through the Department
17 of Administration;

18 (3) a boating collisions, accidents, and casualties reporting system;

19 (4) boating access;

20 (5) boating safety patrol and law enforcement activity;

21 (6) a uniform state waterway marking system; and

22 (7) a boating safety advisory council as described in AS 05.25.057.

23 **Sec. 05.25.055. Registration and numbering of boats.** (a) An
24 undocumented boat placed on water of the state must be registered and numbered as
25 required by this chapter. The Department of Administration shall adopt by regulation
26 a boat registration and numbering system that

27 (1) except as provided in (2) of this subsection, is consistent with the
28 national standard for state numbering systems established by the United States Coast
29 Guard; and

30 (2) uses a size-appropriate decal for a boat that is not equipped with
31 mechanical propulsion, that is exclusively paddled, poled, rowed, or powered by wind,

1 and that is 10 feet or greater in length.

2 (b) In adopting a boat registration system under (a) of this section, the
3 Department of Administration shall authorize agents, including boat dealers, to register
4 boats.

5 (c) A boat dealer shall require a purchaser of a new or used boat sold at retail
6 to complete a registration application and pay the registration fee before the boat
7 leaves the dealer's premises unless the boat is exempt from registration and numbering
8 under this chapter or regulations adopted under this chapter.

9 (d) A person may not operate a boat on water of the state unless a valid
10 certificate of number has been awarded by the Department of Administration to the
11 boat and the identification number and any required validation decals are properly
12 displayed on the boat.

13 (e) The Department of Administration shall authorize agents to accept an
14 application and registration fee for registration, to issue a registration, and to forward
15 the application and registration fee to the Department of Administration.

16 (f) Unless otherwise provided by this chapter, or unless the owner has been
17 awarded a current, valid Alaska certificate of number from the United States Coast
18 Guard, the owner of a boat for which a current certificate of number has been awarded
19 under federal law or a federally approved numbering system of another state shall
20 apply for a certificate of number in this state as required by this chapter if the boat is
21 operated on water of the state for more than 90 consecutive days. If a boat has an
22 existing number, the owner may request that the department issue the same number for
23 purposes of this section, and the department shall comply with the request unless
24 compliance would result in a duplication of numbers.

25 (g) A certificate of number issued under this chapter is valid for three years
26 unless terminated or discontinued earlier as required by this chapter and regulations
27 adopted under this chapter. The certificate expires on the last day of the month at the
28 end of the three-year period. The expiration date shall be indicated on the certificate.

29 (h) All records of ownership of boats that are kept by the Department of
30 Administration under this section are public records. The Department of
31 Administration shall provide records of ownership and registration expense reports to

1 the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes of meeting the federal
2 requirements for state programs and implementing this chapter.

3 (i) The following boats are exempt from the numbering and registration
4 provisions of this section:

5 (1) a boat that is operated in this state for a period not exceeding 90
6 consecutive days and that has a current, valid certificate of number issued by another
7 state having a federally approved numbering system;

8 (2) a foreign boat operated in water of the state for a period not
9 exceeding 90 consecutive days;

10 (3) a boat owned by the United States or an entity or political
11 subdivision of the United States, or a boat owned by a state or an entity or political
12 subdivision of a state;

13 (4) a boat that is not equipped with mechanical propulsion and that is
14 exclusively paddled, poled, rowed, or powered by wind, unless the boat owner
15 voluntarily elects to comply with the numbering and registration provisions of this
16 section;

17 (5) a boat with a valid document to operate the boat that is issued by
18 the United States or a foreign government.

19 **Sec. 05.25.057. Alaska Boating Safety Advisory Council established.** (a)
20 The Alaska Boating Safety Advisory Council is established in the department.

21 (b) The council consists of seven members appointed by the governor. The
22 governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs,
23 knowledge of boating issues as they relate to both safety and water of the state, and
24 good judgment and ability concerning boating safety. At least four members of the
25 council shall represent boat owner interests, including owners of boats powered by
26 engines and owners of boats that are paddled, poled, rowed, or powered by wind. The
27 appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard
28 to political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not
29 a member of the council, but shall be ex officio secretary.

30 (c) The purpose of the council is to

31 (1) recommend to the department boating safety educational materials;

1 (2) review and make recommendations to the department on proposed
2 regulations;

3 (3) consider regional boating safety needs and promote boating safety
4 education programs throughout the state; and

5 (4) advise the department on state, regional, and national boating issues.

6 (d) The council may not meet more than two times in each calendar year.
7 Members of the council receive no compensation for services on the council, but are
8 entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards under AS 39.20.180.

9 (e) In this section, "council" means the Alaska Boating Safety Advisory
10 Council.

11 * **Sec. 13.** AS 05.25.060 is repealed and reenacted to read:

12 **Sec. 05.25.060. Prohibited operation.** A person may not operate a boat on
13 water of the state

14 (1) for a recreational purpose or another purpose, or tow water skis, a
15 surfboard, or a similar device, in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the
16 life or property of another person;

17 (2) that is not equipped as required under this chapter and regulations
18 adopted under this chapter; or

19 (3) in a manner that is inconsistent with a regulatory marker authorized
20 under regulations adopted by the department under this chapter.

21 * **Sec. 14.** AS 05.25.060 is repealed and reenacted to read:

22 **Sec. 05.25.060. Prohibited operation.** (a) A person may not operate a
23 watercraft, whether for recreational purposes or any other purpose, or manipulate water
24 skis, a surfboard, or a similar device on the water of the state in a reckless or negligent
25 manner so as to endanger the life or property of another person.

26 (b) A person may not operate a watercraft, whether for recreational purposes
27 or any other purpose, in violation of AS 28.35.030 on the water of the state while
28 under the influence of any intoxicating liquor, narcotic drug, barbiturate, or marijuana.

29 * **Sec. 15.** AS 05.25.070 is amended to read:

30 **Sec. 05.25.070. Exemptions.** Boats [WATERCRAFT] and persons operating
31 boats [WATERCRAFT] are exempt from this chapter [, EXCEPT AS 05.25.060(b),]

1 when participating in the area set aside for a public regatta, race, marine parade,
 2 tournament, or exhibition on inland water; for purposes of this section, "inland
 3 water" means water of the state that is not offshore water [WATERS].

4 * **Sec. 16.** AS 05.25.070 is repealed and reenacted to read:

5 **Sec. 05.25.070. Exemptions.** Watercraft and persons operating watercraft are
 6 exempt from this chapter, except AS 05.25.060(b), when participating in the area set
 7 aside for a public regatta, race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition on inland
 8 water.

9 * **Sec. 17.** AS 05.25.080 is repealed and reenacted to read:

10 **Sec. 05.25.080. Enforcement.** A peace officer may enforce this chapter and
 11 regulations adopted under this chapter and in the exercise of enforcement may stop
 12 and, if the peace officer has probable cause to believe a violation of this chapter has
 13 occurred, may board a boat subject to this chapter. A peace officer may issue a
 14 citation as provided in AS 12.25.180 to a person who violates a provision of this
 15 chapter.

16 * **Sec. 18.** AS 05.25.080 is repealed and reenacted to read:

17 **Sec. 05.25.080. Enforcement.** A peace officer may enforce this chapter and,
 18 in the exercise of enforcement, may stop and board watercraft subject to this chapter.

19 * **Sec. 19.** AS 05.25.090 is repealed and reenacted to read:

20 **Sec. 05.25.090. Penalties.** (a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, a
 21 person who violates a provision of this chapter or regulations adopted under this
 22 chapter is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

23 (b) A person who violates AS 05.25.010, 05.25.020, 05.25.030(b), 05.25.055,
 24 05.25.060(2) or (3), or a regulation adopted under this chapter relating to AS 05.25.010
 25 or 05.25.020 is guilty of a violation as defined in AS 11.81.900 and may be fined up
 26 to \$500. The supreme court shall establish by order or rule a schedule of bail amounts
 27 for violations under this subsection that allow the disposition of a citation without a
 28 court appearance.

29 * **Sec. 20.** AS 05.25.090 is repealed and reenacted to read:

30 **Sec. 05.25.090. Penalties.** (a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, a
 31 person who violates a provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and is

1 punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment of not more than six
 2 months, or by both, for each violation unless that person is convicted of a violation of
 3 AS 28.35.030, in which case the sentence shall be in accordance with AS 28.35.030.

4 (b) A person who violates AS 05.25.010(d) or 05.25.020(b) is guilty of a
 5 violation, as defined in AS 11.81.900, and may be fined up to \$50.

6 * **Sec. 21.** AS 05.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

7 **Sec. 05.25.095. Regulations.** (a) Except as provided in (c) - (e) of this
 8 section, the department may adopt regulations to implement this chapter, including
 9 regulations regarding

10 (1) boat and associated safety equipment requirements, including
 11 additional equipment as described in AS 05.25.010;

12 (2) uniform waterway markers;

13 (3) boat operation and safety requirements; and

14 (4) requirements for certification of programs on boating safety
 15 education.

16 (b) In consultation with the department, the Department of Administration may
 17 adopt regulations to implement this chapter with respect to the numbering, marking,
 18 and titling of undocumented boats.

19 (c) Regulations adopted under this chapter may not be less stringent than
 20 applicable minimum requirements of regulations governing recreational boat safety of
 21 the United States Coast Guard.

22 (d) The department may not adopt a regulation under this section regarding
 23 boating safety if, before or during the period for public comment on the proposed
 24 regulation provided by AS 44.62.190, the Alaska Boating Safety Advisory Council
 25 provides the department with a written objection regarding the regulation, unless the
 26 department modifies the proposed regulation to satisfy the objection. The prohibition
 27 of this subsection does not apply if modification of the proposed regulation to satisfy
 28 the council's objection would result in

29 (1) failure to meet a federal stringency requirement described under (c)
 30 of this section; or

31 (2) a regulation that is not consistent with another provision of law.

1 (e) Nothing in this section authorizes the department to prohibit a use of or
2 access to the water of the state by a person or user group.

3 **Sec. 05.25.096. Fees.** (a) The Department of Administration shall assess the
4 following fees:

5 (1) motorized boat registration, registration renewal, and transfer of
6 registration, \$24 for a three-year period;

7 (2) nonmotorized boat registration, registration renewal, and transfer of
8 registration, \$10 for a three-year period;

9 (3) replacement of lost registration, \$5;

10 (4) replacement of lost registration validation decals, \$5.

11 (b) The Department of Administration shall separately account for fees
12 collected under (a) of this section for boat registration that are deposited in the general
13 fund. The annual estimated balance in that account may be used by the legislature to
14 make appropriations to the department and the Department of Administration to carry
15 out the purposes of this chapter.

16 * **Sec. 22.** AS 05.25.100 is repealed and reenacted to read:

17 **Sec. 05.25.100. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context requires
18 otherwise,

19 (1) "aids to navigation" means buoys, beacons, or other fixed objects
20 in the water that are used to mark obstructions to navigation or to direct navigation
21 through safe channels;

22 (2) "boat" means watercraft used or capable of being used as a means
23 of transportation on water, except for

24 (A) a ship's lifeboat;

25 (B) a seaplane;

26 (C) an inspected passenger vessel; and

27 (D) a single air mattress, single inner tube, or other water toy;

28 (3) "boat dealer" means a person engaged wholly or in part in the
29 business of selling or offering for sale, buying or taking in trade for the purpose of
30 resale, or exchanging, displaying, demonstrating, or offering for sale three or more
31 boats within 12 consecutive months and who receives or expects to receive money,

1 profit, or any other thing of value;

2 (4) "certificate of number" means the document bearing the
3 identification number issued to a boat by the Department of Administration under this
4 chapter, by a federal agency, or by the state of principal use under a federally
5 approved numbering system;

6 (5) "commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources;

7 (6) "department" means the Department of Natural Resources;

8 (7) "operate" means to navigate or to be in actual physical control of
9 a boat used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water of the state;

10 (8) "owner" means a person who has a property interest other than a
11 security interest in a boat and the right of use or possession of the boat; "owner" does
12 not include a lessee unless the lease is intended as security;

13 (9) "ownership" means a property interest other than a security interest;

14 (10) "passenger" means a person on board a boat who is not the master,
15 operator, crew member, or other person engaged in a capacity in the business of the
16 boat;

17 (11) "regulatory marker" means an anchored or fixed marker in or on
18 the water, or sign on the shore or on a bridge over the water, other than aids to
19 navigation; "regulatory marker" includes swimming markers, bathing markers, speed
20 zone markers, identification markers, danger zone markers, boat keep out areas, special
21 anchorage areas, and mooring buoys;

22 (12) "serviceable condition" as applied to personal flotation devices
23 means

24 (A) metal or plastic hardware is not broken, deformed, or
25 weakened by corrosion;

26 (B) webbings or straps are not ripped, torn, or separated from
27 an attachment point;

28 (C) there are no rotted or deteriorated structural components that
29 fail when tugged;

30 (D) there are no rips, tears, or open seams in fabric or coatings
31 that are large enough to allow the loss of buoyant material;

1 (E) buoyant material has not become hardened, nonresilient,
2 permanently compressed, waterlogged, or oil-soaked, and does not show
3 evidence of fungus or mildew;

4 (F) there is no loss of buoyant material or evidence of buoyant
5 material that is not securely held in position;

6 (G) there is a properly armed inflation mechanism, complete
7 with a full inflation medium cartridge and all status indicators showing that the
8 inflation mechanism is properly armed, unless the PFD is worn inflated;

9 (H) inflatable chambers are all capable of holding air;

10 (I) oral inflation tubes are not blocked, detached, or broken;

11 (J) the manual inflation lanyard or lever is not inaccessible,
12 broken, or missing;

13 (K) inflator status indicators are not broken or otherwise non-
14 functional;

15 (13) "undocumented boat" means a boat that does not possess a valid
16 certificate of documentation issued by the United States Coast Guard under 46 U.S.C.
17 12101 - 12123;

18 (14) "validation decal" means a decal that has the state of registration
19 and registration expiration year clearly marked;

20 (15) "water of the state" has the meaning given in the term "navigable
21 water" in AS 38.05.965; "water of the state" also includes the marginal sea adjacent
22 to the state and the high seas within the territorial limits of the state, irrespective of
23 the ownership of the land underlying those waters.

24 * **Sec. 23.** AS 05.25.100 is repealed and reenacted to read:

25 **Sec. 05.25.100. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context otherwise
26 requires,

27 (1) "department" means the Department of Public Safety;

28 (2) "operate" means to navigate or otherwise use a watercraft for
29 recreational purposes as opposed to business, subsistence, or commercial purposes;

30 (3) "watercraft" means every description of vessel, other than a
31 seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on

1 water and devoted to recreational pursuits unless otherwise expressly provided in this
2 chapter; and excepting vessels having a valid marine document issued by the United
3 States or foreign governments;

4 (4) "water of the state" means all water, fresh or salt, inland or coastal,
5 within the territorial limits or under the jurisdiction of the state.

6 * **Sec. 24.** AS 09.25.120(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

7 (9) reports submitted under AS 05.25.030 concerning certain collisions,
8 accidents, or other casualties involving boats.

9 * **Sec. 25.** AS 12.25.190(c) is amended to read:

10 (c) The person cited for the crime shall give a written promise to appear in
11 court by signing at least one copy of the written citation prepared by the peace officer,
12 and the officer shall deliver a copy of the citation to the person. The written promise
13 requirement of this subsection does not apply to **boating citations for which a bail**
14 **schedule has been established under AS 05.25.090(b)**, motor vehicle and traffic
15 citations for which a bail or fine schedule has been established under AS 28.05.151,
16 fish and game citations for which a bail schedule has been established under
17 AS 16.05.165, citations issued under AS 04.21.065, citations issued under
18 AS 18.35.341, citations issued in state park and recreational facilities under
19 AS 41.21.960, or littering citations issued under AS 46.06.080.

20 * **Sec. 26.** AS 12.25.190(c) is repealed and reenacted to read:

21 (c) The person cited for the crime shall give a written promise to appear in
22 court by signing at least one copy of the written citation prepared by the peace officer,
23 and the officer shall deliver a copy of the citation to the person. The written promise
24 requirement of this subsection does not apply to motor vehicle and traffic citations for
25 which a bail or fine schedule has been established under AS 28.05.151, fish and game
26 citations for which a bail schedule has been established under AS 16.05.165, citations
27 issued under AS 04.21.065, citations issued under AS 18.35.341, citations issued in
28 state park and recreational facilities under AS 41.21.960, or littering citations issued
29 under AS 46.06.080.

30 * **Sec. 27.** AS 05.25.052, 05.25.053, 05.25.055, 05.25.057, 05.25.095, 05.25.096, and
31 AS 09.25.120(a)(9) are repealed.

1 * **Sec. 28.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
2 to read:

3 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Natural Resources and
4 Department of Administration may immediately proceed to adopt regulations to implement
5 their respective provisions of this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62
6 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of secs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12,
7 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 - 22, 24, and 25 of this Act.

8 * **Sec. 29.** Section 28 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

9 * **Sec. 30.** Sections 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 26, and 27 of this Act take effect 90
10 days after the date the chair of the Alaska Legislative Council notifies the revisor of statutes
11 that in the previous state fiscal year the state did not receive and does not anticipate receiving
12 federal funding for a statewide boating and safety education program. The director of the
13 division of legislative finance shall notify the chair of the Alaska Legislative Council when
14 the state, in the previous fiscal year, did not receive federal funding for a statewide boating
15 and safety program. The chair of the Alaska Legislative Council may not give the notice
16 described in this section unless the notice is approved by a vote of a majority of the members
17 of the Alaska Legislative Council.