

**32-1139. Boating safety education, certificate of completion required for certain operators.** (a) On and after January 1, 2001:

- (1) No person born on or after January 1, 1989, shall operate on public waters of this state any motorboat or sailboat unless the person possesses a certificate of completion of an approved boater safety education course of instruction lawfully issued to such person as provided by this act.
  - (2) No owner or person in possession of any motorboat or sailboat shall permit another person, who is subject to the requirements in subsection (a)(1), to operate such motorboat or sailboat unless such other person either: (A) Has been lawfully issued a certificate of completion of an approved boater safety education course of instruction as provided by this act; or (B) is legally exempt from the requirements of subsection (a)(1).
  - (3) The requirement in subsection (a)(1), shall not apply to a person 21 years of age or older.
  - (4) The requirement in subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to a person operating a sailboat that does not have a motor and has an overall length of 16 feet, seven inches or less, while such person is enrolled in an instructor-led class.
- (b) The requirement in subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to a person operating a motorboat or sailboat accompanied by and under the direct and audible supervision of a person over 17 years of age who either: (1) Possesses a certificate of completion of an approved boater safety education course; or (2) is legally exempt from the requirements of subsection (a)(1).
  - (c) No person who is charged with a violation of subsection (a)(1) shall be convicted of the violation if such person produces in court or in the office of the arresting officer a certificate of completion of an approved boater safety education course of instruction lawfully issued to such person and valid at the time of such person's arrest.

**History:** L. 2000, ch. 70, § 2; L. 2016, ch. 59, § 1; May 19.