
HOUSE BILL 1046

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Carlson, Pennington, Radcliff, Ogden, Doumit, Keiser, Scott, Cole, DeBolt, Cooper, Mason, Cody, Costa, L. Thomas, Dyer, Regala, Anderson, Appelwick and O'Brien

Read first time 01/13/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to personal flotation devices; amending RCW
2 88.12.115; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 88.12.115 and 1993 c 244 s 14 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No person may operate or permit the operation of a vessel on
7 the waters of the state without a personal flotation device on board
8 for each person on the vessel. Each personal flotation device shall be
9 in serviceable condition, of an appropriate size, and readily
10 accessible.

11 (2) No person may operate or permit to be operated a vessel under
12 nineteen feet in length unless each person nine years of age or younger
13 on the vessel wears a United States coast guard-approved personal
14 flotation device.

15 (3) Except as provided in RCW 88.12.015, a violation of subsection
16 (1) or (2) of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW if
17 the vessel is not carrying passengers for hire.

1 (~~(3)~~) (4) A violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section is
2 a misdemeanor punishable under RCW 9.92.030, if the vessel is carrying
3 passengers for hire.

4 (5) Enforcement of subsection (2) of this section by law
5 enforcement officers may be accomplished only as a secondary action if
6 a vessel has been detained for a suspected violation of this chapter or
7 some other offense.

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