

CHAPTER 640

(Senate Bill 795)

AN ACT concerning

Boating Safety Education for Youth and Future Generations

FOR the purpose of requiring certain persons to obtain and possess a certificate of boating safety education to operate certain vessels on certain waters of the State; designating who may offer the boating safety course of instruction and the equivalency examination; authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to issue certificates of boating safety instruction, to issue temporary certificates under certain circumstances for specified periods of time, to prescribe the criteria for the course pursuant-to-certain-standards, to administer a certain test verbally where when appropriate, to coordinate a statewide program of boating safety instruction and certification, to adopt regulations to implement the program, and to exempt certain persons from the provisions of the program; providing that certain entities designated by the Department may offer a certain boating safety education course and equivalency examination and recognizing the certificates issued by those entities; requiring the Department to provide certain persons with certain study materials; providing that certain entities designated by the Department may offer certain temporary certificates; providing that certain certificates of boating safety education are valid for a lifetime and are nonrevocable; providing for the replacement of certain lost or destroyed certificates; requiring--the--Department--to request--and--maintain--certain--information; exempting certain persons from the requirement to obtain and possess the certificate of boating safety education; providing that certain out-of-state certificates of boating safety education be recognized in the State; providing that only one person need possess a boating safety education certificate on certain vessels under certain circumstances; providing that juveniles shall be charged under a certain provision of law; providing certain penalties for violation of the requirement to obtain and possess the certificate; specifying that certain Natural Resources Police Officers or other law enforcement officers may enforce the provisions of this Act only as a secondary action when detaining the operator of a vessel for certain other suspected violations; requiring certain persons convicted of certain boating safety violations to successfully complete certain instruction in boating safety; providing--for--a--certain delayed--effective--date; and generally relating to the program of boating safety education and certification.

BY adding to