

Article - Natural Resources
 Section 8-712.2 and 8-740
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1983 Replacement Volume and 1986 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland has hundreds of miles of navigable water and 152,000 registered vessels, and boating is increasing to the point that many rivers, bays, and creeks are congested; and

WHEREAS, Many boaters lack any formal instruction in the safe use of boats, an understanding of the ebb and flow of tides, the rules of the waterways, effects of alcohol, mooring, and an awareness of potential dangers, such as white waters and hypothermia, and an understanding of the importance and effect of varying weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, Many boaters are subjected to needless dangers and aggravation because of their own lack of knowledge or the inexperience of their fellow boaters; and

WHEREAS, Each year accidents occur that are avoidable, boats are damaged, people are injured, and lives are lost because boaters are unaware of basic boating regulations and safety; and

WHEREAS, A basic boating course for all operators born after July 1, 1972, would reduce the problems by assuring that our younger generation would have a fundamental boating knowledge, and this would, over a period of time, lead to a more educated boating public; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

8-712.2.

(A) (1) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (4) (3) AND (5) (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1988, A PERSON BORN ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1972 UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE MAY NOT OPERATE ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE A VESSEL FOR PLEASURE THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE NUMBERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE OR A VESSEL FOR PLEASURE THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE NUMBERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL BOAT SAFETY ACT OF 1971 WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION.

~~(2) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (4) AND (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ANY PERSON WHO BECAME 16 YEARS OLD ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1988, MAY NOT OPERATE ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE A VESSEL FOR PLEASURE THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE NUMBERED IN~~