

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

Article - Natural Resources

8-743.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "CHILD" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 7 YEARS.

(3) "PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE" MEANS A TYPE I, II, III, OR V U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE THAT IS:

(I) THE PROPER SIZE FOR THE CHILD; AND

(II) IN GOOD AND SERVICEABLE CONDITION.

(4) "VESSEL" MEANS:

(I) A VESSEL USED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES; OR

(II) A VESSEL LEASED, RENTED, OR CHARTERED FOR NONCOMMERCIAL USE.

(5) "VESSEL" DOES NOT INCLUDE A VESSEL CARRYING PASSENGERS FOR HIRE UNDER THE COMMAND OF AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO CARRY PASSENGERS FOR HIRE, OR A VESSEL DISPLAYING A VALID SEAFOOD HARVESTER'S LICENSE NUMBER WHILE ENGAGED IN THE HARVESTING OF SEAFOOD FOR SALE.

(B) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE OR PERMIT THE OPERATION OF A VESSEL UNDER 21 FEET IN LENGTH WHILE THERE IS PRESENT IN THE VESSEL A CHILD NOT WEARING A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE WHICH IS SECURELY AND PROPERLY ATTACHED TO THE CHILD.

(C) SUBSECTION (B) DOES NOT APPLY TO:

(1) A VESSEL THAT IS MOORED OR ANCHORED; OR

(2) A CHILD WHO IS BELOW DECK OR IN AN ENCLOSED CABIN.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2001.

Approved May 15, 2001.
