

[(m)] (N) (1) "Ship lifeboat" means a lifeboat used solely for lifesaving purposes.

(2) "Ship lifeboat" does not include dinghies, tenders, speedboats, or other types of craft carried aboard a vessel and used for other than lifesaving purposes.

[(n)] (O) "State of principal use" means the state on whose waters a vessel is used or to be used most during a calendar year.

[(o)] (P) "Title tax" means the tax imposed under § 8-716 of this subtitle.

[(p)] (Q) "Use" means to operate, navigate, or employ a vessel. A vessel is in use whenever it is upon the water, whether it is moving, anchored, or tied up to any manner of dock or buoy. A vessel is also in use if it is kept in any structure in readiness for use.

[(q)] (R) (1) "Vessel" means every description of watercraft, including an ice boat but not including a seaplane, that is used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water or ice.

(2) "Vessel" includes the motor, spars, sails, and accessories of a vessel.

[(r)] (S) "Waters of the State" means any water within the jurisdiction of the State, the marginal sea adjacent to the State, and the high seas when navigated as part of a ride or journey to or from the shore of the State.

8-704.

(a) The Department may adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

(b) In order to protect the public safety, welfare, and recreational interests in waters of the State, the Department may adopt a program relating to the placement of buoys, mooring buoys, and other apparatus used to secure, berth, or moor vessels in the waters of the State. The Department shall consult with any county affected by the program.

(b-1) The Department shall adopt regulations governing the following:

(1) The numbering of vessels for identification, safety equipment on vessels, and operations of any vessels subject to this subtitle so that each ~~TYPE OR SIZE~~ vessel complying with the regulations may be operated with equal freedom or under similar requirements on all waters of the State. The numbering system used shall conform to the one adopted by the federal government. These regulations may not conflict with any federal law or regulation applicable to vessels on the waters in the State;

(2) The issuance of certificates of title and certificates of boat number;

(3) Instructions for making reports and handling personnel and boats in case of accidents;