

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 3051  
By: Hopson  
Culture, Recreation, & Tourism  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Mandatory Boating Safety Education legislation was passed in 1997. However, persons age 18 and over were exempt from the requirements. Boating statistics indicated the average age of a person involved in boating accidents is 36 years, and only 15% have completed a boating safety course. There are no course requirements for operators of a vessel carrying passengers for hire.

C.S.H.B. 3051 removes the age 18 exemption, making boating safety education a requirement for all persons born on or after September 1, 1984 as well as for boaters who operate a vessel carrying passengers for hire.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 3051 amends the Parks & Wildlife Code to avoid conflict between the terms "motorboat" and "vessel" and clarifies the term "federal regulations." The bill further amends the Parks & Wildlife Code by making it an offense to allow a person under age 18 to operate a personal watercraft in a prohibited manner, and makes boating safety courses a requirement for all appropriate persons who operate a vessel carrying passengers for hire.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE**

C.S.H.B. 3051 requires anyone who is operating the appropriate motor vessel to have with them a boater education card or some other form of proof that shows that they have completed the boating safety course.