

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 550

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to sound-producing devices on vessels.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 31.065, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 31.065. SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICES. A vessel [~~motorboat~~] must have an efficient whistle or other sound-producing device if one is required by the commandant of the Coast Guard.

SECTION 2. Section 31.073(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) All canoes, kayaks, punts, rowboats, sailboats, rubber rafts, and other paddle craft when paddled, poled, oared, or windblown are exempt from all safety equipment requirements except each vessel must have the following:

(1) one Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device for each person aboard; [~~and~~]

(2) the lights prescribed by the commandant of the Coast Guard for vessels and required under Section 31.064; and

(3) the sound-producing device prescribed by the commandant of the Coast Guard for vessels and required under Section 31.065.

SECTION 3. Section 31.127(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person who violates or fails to comply with any

1 provision of this chapter other than Section 31.073(a)(3), or who
2 violates or fails to comply with a proclamation of the commission
3 entered under this chapter or a city ordinance or order of a
4 commissioners court or a political subdivision of the state made or
5 entered under this chapter, commits an offense that is a Class C
6 Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.