

By: Larson

H.B. No. 1988

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of emergency engine cutoff switches on motorboats.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 31, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 31.1071 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.1071. OPERATION OF MOTORBOAT WITH EMERGENCY ENGINE CUTOFF SWITCH. (a) In this section, "engine cutoff switch" means an emergency switch installed on a motorboat that:

(1) is designed to shut off the engine if:

(A) the motorboat operator using a lanyard attachment activates the switch by falling overboard or otherwise moving beyond the length of the lanyard; or

(B) the motorboat operator or a passenger using a wireless attachment activates the switch by falling overboard and submerging the man-overboard transmitter; and

(2) attaches:

(A) physically to the motorboat operator through the use of a lanyard worn by the operator; or

(B) wirelessly through the use of a water-activated man-overboard transmitter worn by the motorboat operator or any similarly equipped passenger on the motorboat.

(b) A motorboat operator may not operate a motorboat less than 26 feet in length and equipped by the manufacturer with an

1 engine cutoff switch while the engine is running and the motorboat
2 is underway without first verifying that the switch is operational
3 and fully functional and:

4 (1) if using a lanyard attachment, properly attaching
5 the lanyard, as appropriate for the specific motorboat, to the
6 operator's body or to the clothing or personal flotation device
7 being worn by the operator; or

8 (2) if using a wireless attachment, properly attaching
9 to each individual on the motorboat an operational man-overboard
10 transmitter.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.