

By: Klick

H.B. No. 2117

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring certain persons to wear a personal flotation device while a passenger on motorboats.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 31.066(b), (d), and (e), Parks and Wildlife Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The operator of a motorboat less than 26 feet in length, while underway, shall require every passenger born on or after September 1, 2003, [~~under 13 years of age~~] to wear a wearable personal flotation device of the sort prescribed by the regulations of the commandant of the Coast Guard. A life belt or ring buoy does not satisfy this requirement.

(d) A person born on or after September 1, 2003, who is [~~under 13 years of age~~] on board a vessel described by Section 31.073(a) or (b) must wear a wearable personal flotation device of the sort prescribed by the commandant of the Coast Guard while the vessel is under way.

(e) An adult operator of a vessel described by Section 31.073 may not permit a person born on or after September 1, 2003, [~~under 13 years of age~~] to be on board the vessel while the vessel is under way if the person born on or after September 1, 2003, [~~under 13 years of age~~] is not wearing a wearable personal flotation device required by Subsection (d).

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only

1 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
2 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
3 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
4 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
5 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
6 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
7 before that date.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.