

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

**SESSION LAW 2005-161
HOUSE BILL 702**

**AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM AGE FOR PERSONS WHO MAY
OPERATE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT IN THE STATE.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 75A-13.3(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no person under 16 years of age shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State, and it is unlawful for the owner of a personal watercraft or a person who has temporary or permanent responsibility for a person under the age of 16 to knowingly allow that person to operate a personal watercraft. A person of at least ~~12~~14 years of age but under 16 years of age may operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State if:

- (1) The person is accompanied by a person of at least 18 years of age who physically occupies the watercraft; or
- (2) The person (i) possesses on his or her person while operating the watercraft, identification showing proof of age and a boater safety certification card issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission or proof of other satisfactory completion of a boating safety education course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA); and (ii) produces that identification and certification card upon the request of an officer of the Wildlife Resources Commission or local law enforcement agency."

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective November 1, 2005. The age requirement of 14 years of age in this act does not apply to persons who are 12 years of age or older prior to November 1, 2005.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 28th day of June, 2005.

s/ Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved 11:48 a.m. this 7th day of July, 2005