

The Senate Committee on Public Safety offered the following substitute to SB 41:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to registration, operation, and sale of watercraft generally, so as to require
3 completion of a boater education course for registration of a watercraft; to provide for an
4 exemption; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 registration, operation, and sale of watercraft generally, is amended by revising
9 subsection (b) of Code Section 52-7-22, relating to comprehensive boating educational
10 programs, required completion, and exception, as follows:

11 ~~"(b)(1) Except Effective July 1, 2014, and except as otherwise provided by this chapter,~~
12 anyone born on or after January 1, 1998, who operates any motorized vessel on the
13 waters of this state shall complete a boating education course approved by the department
14 prior to the operation of such vessel.

15 (2) On and after January 1, 2025, any individual purchasing and registering a vessel for
16 the first time shall complete a boating education course approved by the department prior

17 to operating the vessel. The department shall notify any individual who registers a vessel
18 for the first time, as indicated in the department's active electronic registration system,
19 of this requirement. Any individual who executes a sworn statement attesting that he or
20 she has regularly operated motorized vessels for ten or more years shall be exempt from
21 this requirement."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.