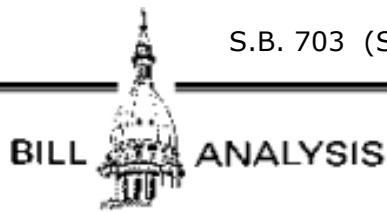




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Senate Bill 703 (Substitute S-1)
Sponsor: Senator Michelle A. McManus
Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Date Completed: 2-2-04

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 802 (Personal Watercraft) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to permit, for five years, children aged 12 and under to wear a Type III personal flotation device (PFD) when riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft. Also, the bill would delay the scheduled repeal of Part 802 from March 23, 2004, to March 23, 2012.

Currently, a person must not operate a personal watercraft in Michigan unless children under 12 who are riding on or being towed behind it are wearing a Type I or Type II PFD. Those aged 12 and over must wear a Type I, Type II, or Type III PFD. The bill would prohibit a person from operating a personal watercraft unless all people riding on or being towed behind it were wearing a Type I, Type II, or Type III PFD, until five years after the bill's effective date. After five years, the current provisions again would apply (i.e., a Type III PFD would not suffice for children under 12).

(The Administrative Code (R 281.1234) defines Type I and Type II personal flotation devices as those designed to turn an unconscious person in the water from a face-down position to a vertical or slightly backward position. A Type I PFD has more than 20 pounds of buoyancy; a Type II, at least 15.5 pounds of buoyancy. A Type III PFD is designed to keep a conscious person in a vertical or slightly backward position and to have at least 15.5 pounds of buoyancy.)

MCL 324.80205

Legislative Analyst: Claire Layman

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Bethany Wicksall

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.