

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 23-0653.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

**SENATE BILL 23-069**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hinrichsen and Will,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**Senate Committees**  
Transportation & Energy

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS TO OPERATE A MOTORBOAT IN THIS**  
102 **STATE.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Current law requires an operator of a motorboat in the state to be at least 16 years of age but allows an individual who is at least 14 years of age and who has completed a motorboat safety course to operate a motorboat in the state.

The bill prohibits an individual under 16 years of age from operating a motorboat and requires any individual born after January 1,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1984, to take a boating safety course and have a certificate of completion from that course in the individual's possession in order to operate a motorboat.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 33-13-107.1  
3 as follows:

4           **33-13-107.1. Minimum age of motorboat operators - penalty.**

5 (~~1~~) ~~No person under sixteen years of age~~ AN INDIVIDUAL BORN AFTER  
6 JANUARY 1, 1984, OR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF  
7 AGE shall NOT operate a motorboat in this state except as provided in this  
8 section.

9           (~~2~~) ~~A person fourteen years of age or older who has not reached~~  
10 ~~his or her sixteenth birthday~~ AN INDIVIDUAL BORN AFTER JANUARY 1,  
11 1984, may operate a motorboat only if ~~he or she~~ THE INDIVIDUAL IS AT  
12 LEAST SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND:

13           (a) Completes a boating safety course approved by the division of  
14 parks and wildlife; and

15           (b) (I) ~~Has POSSESSES~~ a boating safety certificate issued by the  
16 boating safety course provider. ~~in his or her possession.~~

17           (II) WHILE OPERATING A MOTORBOAT, AN INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED  
18 TO OBTAIN A BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO THIS  
19 SUBSECTION (2) SHALL KEEP THE BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE IN THE  
20 INDIVIDUAL'S IMMEDIATE POSSESSION OR IN AN ACCESSIBLE PLACE ON THE  
21 MOTORBOAT. A COURT MAY WAIVE FINES INCURRED BY AN INDIVIDUAL  
22 FOR NOT HAVING THE BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
23 POSSESSION OR IN AN ACCESSIBLE PLACE AT THE TIME OF OPERATING A  
24 MOTORBOAT IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS ABLE TO PRESENT EVIDENCE TO THE

1 COURT OF HAVING COMPLETED A BOATING SAFETY COURSE PRIOR TO THE  
2 INFRACTION.

3 (3) ~~No person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL shall NOT permit or knowingly  
4 authorize a motorboat to be operated by a ~~person under sixteen years of~~  
5 ~~age~~ AN INDIVIDUAL BORN AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984, OR AN INDIVIDUAL  
6 WHO IS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE; ~~except that a person fourteen years~~  
7 ~~of age or older who has not reached his or her sixteenth birthday~~ AN  
8 INDIVIDUAL BORN AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984, WHO IS AT LEAST SIXTEEN  
9 YEARS OF AGE may be permitted or authorized to operate a motorboat if  
10 ~~he or she~~ THE INDIVIDUAL has met the boating safety and certificate  
11 requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

12 (4) ~~No~~ NEITHER AN owner or operator of a vessel livery ~~or~~ NOR an  
13 agent or employee of such owner or operator shall lease, hire, or rent a  
14 motorboat to or for operation by any ~~person under sixteen years of age~~  
15 INDIVIDUAL BORN AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984, OR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS  
16 UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE; ~~except that a person fourteen years of age~~  
17 ~~or older who has not reached his or her sixteenth birthday~~ AN INDIVIDUAL  
18 BORN AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984, WHO IS AT LEAST SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE,  
19 may be permitted or authorized to operate a motorboat if ~~he or she~~ THE  
20 INDIVIDUAL has met the boating safety and certificate requirements of  
21 subsection (2) of this section.

22 (5) Any ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL who violates this section commits a  
23 civil infraction and, upon conviction, ~~thereof~~, shall be punished by a fine  
24 of one hundred dollars.

25 (6) It is the intent of the general assembly that ~~no~~ general fund  
26 dollars SHALL NOT be appropriated for the purpose of implementing the  
27 requirements of this section.

1           **SECTION 2. Effective date - applicability.** This act takes effect  
2 June 1, 2024, and applies to conduct occurring on or after said date.

3           **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.