

31.1 (iii) strengthening land and water stewardship messaging and education in order to grow
31.2 public investment and attention from people who will help steward Minnesota's outdoor
31.3 resources;

31.4 (iv) developing best practices for outdoor recreation communication for the commissioner
31.5 of natural resources and Explore Minnesota Tourism;

31.6 (v) developing methods to amplify communication resources and to do more with less
31.7 through communication partnership creation and focusing these efforts both in and outside
31.8 Minnesota; and

31.9 (vi) measuring and communicating the return on investment of outdoor recreation
31.10 investments, specifically focused on measurable economic, health, and well-being benefits.

31.11 Subd. 5. **Powers.** The director of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office may:

31.12 (1) direct and control money appropriated to the director;

31.13 (2) apply for, receive, and spend money for the purposes of this section;

31.14 (3) employ assistants and other officers, employees, and agents that the director considers
31.15 necessary for the purposes of this section;

31.16 (4) enter into interdepartmental agreements with any other state agency; and

31.17 (5) enter into joint powers agreements under chapter 471.

31.18 Subd. 6. **Report.** By January 15 each year, the director of the Minnesota Outdoor
31.19 Recreation Office must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
31.20 legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural
31.21 resources and tourism on the office's performance in achieving its purpose under subdivision
31.22 3 and how money appropriated to the office was expended.

31.23 Sec. 13. **[86B.30] DEFINITIONS.**

31.24 Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** The definitions in this section apply to sections 86B.30
31.25 to 86B.341.

31.26 Subd. 2. **Accompanying operator.** "Accompanying operator" means a person 21 years
31.27 of age or older who:

31.28 (1) is in a personal watercraft or other type of motorboat;

31.29 (2) is within immediate reach of the controls of the motor; and

31.30 (3) possesses a valid operator's permit or is an exempt operator.

32.1 Subd. 3. **Adult operator.** "Adult operator" means a motorboat operator, including a
32.2 personal watercraft operator, who is 12 years of age or older and who was:

32.3 (1) effective July 1, 2024, born on or after July 1, 2003;

32.4 (2) effective July 1, 2025, born on or after July 1, 1999;

32.5 (3) effective July 1, 2026, born on or after July 1, 1995; and

32.6 (4) effective July 1, 2027, born on or after July 1, 1987.

32.7 Subd. 4. **Exempt operator.** "Exempt operator" means a motorboat operator, including
32.8 a personal watercraft operator, who is 12 years of age or older and who:

32.9 (1) possesses a valid license to operate a motorboat issued for maritime personnel by
32.10 the United States Coast Guard under Code of Federal Regulations, title 46, part 10, or a
32.11 marine certificate issued by the Canadian government;

32.12 (2) is not a resident of the state or country, is temporarily using the waters of the state
32.13 for a period not to exceed 60 days, and:

32.14 (i) meets any applicable requirements of the state of residency; or

32.15 (ii) possesses a Canadian pleasure craft operator's card;

32.16 (3) is operating a motorboat under a dealer's license according to section 86B.405; or

32.17 (4) is operating a motorboat during an emergency.

32.18 Subd. 5. **Motorboat rental business.** "Motorboat rental business" means a person
32.19 engaged in the business of renting or leasing motorboats, including personal watercraft, for
32.20 a period not exceeding 30 days. Motorboat rental business includes a person's agents and
32.21 employees.

32.22 Subd. 6. **Young operator.** "Young operator" means a motorboat operator, including a
32.23 personal watercraft operator, younger than 12 years of age.

32.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

32.25 Sec. 14. **[86B.302] WATERCRAFT OPERATOR'S PERMIT.**

32.26 Subdivision 1. **Generally.** The commissioner must issue a watercraft operator's permit
32.27 to a person 12 years of age or older who successfully completes a water safety course and
32.28 written test according to section 86B.304, paragraph (a), or who provides proof of completion
32.29 of a program subject to a reciprocity agreement or certified by the commissioner as
32.30 substantially similar.

33.1 Subd. 2. Issuing permit to certain young operators. The commissioner may issue a
33.2 permit under this section to a person who is at least 11 years of age, but the permit is not
33.3 valid until the person becomes an adult operator.

33.4 Subd. 3. Personal possession required. (a) A person who is required to have a watercraft
33.5 operator's permit must have in personal possession:

33.6 (1) a valid watercraft operator's permit;

33.7 (2) a driver's license that has a valid watercraft operator's permit indicator issued under
33.8 section 171.07, subdivision 20; or

33.9 (3) an identification card that has a valid watercraft operator's permit indicator issued
33.10 under section 171.07, subdivision 20.

33.11 (b) A person who is required to have a watercraft operator's permit must display one of
33.12 the documents described in paragraph (a) to a conservation officer or peace officer upon
33.13 request.

33.14 Subd. 4. Using electronic device to display proof of permit. If a person uses an
33.15 electronic device to display a document described in subdivision 3 to a conservation officer
33.16 or peace officer:

33.17 (1) the officer is immune from liability for any damage to the device, unless the officer
33.18 does not exercise due care in handling the device; and

33.19 (2) this does not constitute consent for the officer to access other contents on the device.

33.20 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.

33.21 **Sec. 15. [86B.303] OPERATING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND OTHER**
33.22 **MOTORBOATS.**

33.23 Subdivision 1. Adult operators. An adult operator may not operate a motorboat,
33.24 including a personal watercraft, unless:

33.25 (1) the adult operator possesses a valid watercraft operator's permit;

33.26 (2) the adult operator is an exempt operator; or

33.27 (3) an accompanying operator is in the motorboat.

33.28 Subd. 2. Young operators. (a) A young operator may not operate a personal watercraft
33.29 or any motorboat powered by a motor with a factory rating of more than 75 horsepower.

34.1 (b) A young operator may operate a motorboat that is not a personal watercraft and that
34.2 is powered by a motor with a factory rating of up to 75 horsepower if an accompanying
34.3 operator is in the motorboat.

34.4 Subd. 3. **Accompanying operators.** For purposes of this section and section 169A.20,
34.5 an accompanying operator, as well as the actual operator, is operating and is in physical
34.6 control of a motorboat.

34.7 Subd. 4. **Owners may not allow unlawful use.** An owner or other person in lawful
34.8 control of a motorboat may not allow the motorboat to be operated contrary to this section.

34.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

34.10 Sec. 16. **[86B.304] WATERCRAFT SAFETY PROGRAM.**

34.11 (a) The commissioner must establish a **water safety course and testing program** for
34.12 personal watercraft and watercraft operators and must prescribe a **written test** as part of the
34.13 course. The course must be approved by the National Association of State Boating Law
34.14 Administrators and **must be available online**. The commissioner may allow designated water
34.15 safety courses administered by third parties to meet the requirements of this paragraph and
34.16 may enter into reciprocity agreements or otherwise certify boat safety education programs
34.17 from other states that are substantially similar to in-state programs. The commissioner must
34.18 **establish a working group of interested parties to develop course content and implementation.**
34.19 The course must **include content on aquatic invasive species** mitigation best management
34.20 practices, reducing conflicts among user groups, and limiting the ecological impacts of
34.21 watercraft.

34.22 (b) The commissioner must create or designate a **short boater safety examination to be**
34.23 **administered by motorboat rental businesses**, as required by section 86B.306, subdivision
34.24 3. The examination developed pursuant to this paragraph must be one that can be
34.25 administered **electronically or on paper**, at the option of the motorboat rental business
34.26 administering the examination.

34.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

34.28 Sec. 17. **[86B.306] MOTORBOAT RENTAL BUSINESSES.**

34.29 Subdivision 1. **Requirements.** A motorboat rental business must not rent or lease a
34.30 motorboat, including a personal watercraft, to any person for operation on the waters of the
34.31 state unless the renter or lessee:

34.32 (1) has a valid watercraft operator's permit **or is an exempt operator**; and

35.1 (2) is 18 years of age or older.

35.2 Subd. 2. **Authorized operators.** A motorboat rental business must list on each motorboat
 35.3 rental or lease agreement the name and age of each operator who is authorized to operate
 35.4 the motorboat or personal watercraft. The renter or lessee of the motorboat must ensure that
 35.5 only listed authorized operators operate the motorboat or personal watercraft.

35.6 Subd. 3. **Summary of boating regulations; examination.** (a) A motorboat rental
 35.7 business must provide each authorized operator a summary of the statutes and rules governing
 35.8 operation of motorboats and personal watercraft in the state and instructions for safe
 35.9 operation.

35.10 (b) Each authorized operator must review the summary provided under this subdivision
 35.11 and must take a short boater safety examination in a form approved by the commissioner
 35.12 before the motorboat or personal watercraft leaves the motorboat rental business premises,
 35.13 unless the authorized operator has taken the examination during the previous 60 days.

35.14 Subd. 4. **Safety equipment for personal watercraft.** A motorboat rental business must
 35.15 provide at no additional cost a United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable
 35.16 personal flotation device with a USCG label indicating it either is approved for or does not
 35.17 prohibit use with personal watercraft or water-skiing and any other required safety equipment
 35.18 to all persons who rent a personal watercraft.

35.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

35.20 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 86B.313, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

35.21 Subd. 4. **Dealers and rental operations.** (a) A dealer of personal watercraft shall
 35.22 distribute a summary of the laws and rules governing the operation of personal watercraft
 35.23 and, upon request, shall provide instruction to a purchaser regarding:

35.24 (1) the laws and rules governing personal watercraft; and

35.25 (2) the safe operation of personal watercraft.

35.26 (b) ~~A person who offers personal watercraft for rent:~~

35.27 ~~(1) shall provide a summary of the laws and rules governing the operation of personal~~
 35.28 ~~watercraft and provide instruction regarding the laws and rules and the safe operation of~~
 35.29 ~~personal watercraft to each person renting a personal watercraft;~~

35.30 ~~(2) shall provide a United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable personal~~
 35.31 ~~flotation device with a USCG label indicating it either is approved for or does not prohibit~~

36.1 ~~use with personal watercraft or water skiing and any other required safety equipment to all~~
 36.2 ~~persons who rent a personal watercraft at no additional cost; and~~

36.3 ~~(3) shall require that a watercraft operator's permit from this state or from the operator's~~
 36.4 ~~state of residence be shown each time a personal watercraft is rented to any person younger~~
 36.5 ~~than age 18 and shall record the permit on the form provided by the commissioner.~~

36.6 ~~(e) Each dealer of personal watercraft or person offering personal watercraft for rent~~
 36.7 ~~shall have the person who purchases or rents a personal watercraft sign a form provided by~~
 36.8 ~~the commissioner acknowledging that the purchaser or renter has been provided a copy of~~
 36.9 ~~the laws and rules regarding personal watercraft operation and has read them. The form~~
 36.10 ~~must be retained by the dealer or person offering personal watercraft for rent for a period~~
 36.11 ~~of six months following the date of signature and must be made available for inspection by~~
 36.12 ~~sheriff's deputies or conservation officers during normal business hours.~~

36.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

36.14 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 89A.03, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

36.15 Subd. 5. **Membership regulation.** Terms, compensation, nomination, appointment, and
 36.16 removal of council members are governed by section 15.059, except that a council member
 36.17 may be compensated at the rate of up to \$125 a day.

36.18 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 90.181, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

36.19 Subd. 2. **Deferred payments.** (a) If the amount of the statement is not paid or payment
 36.20 is not postmarked within 30 days of the statement date thereof, ~~it shall bear, the amount~~
 36.21 bears interest at the rate determined pursuant to section 16A.124, except that the purchaser
 36.22 ~~shall not be~~ is not required to pay interest that totals \$1 or less. If the amount is not paid
 36.23 within 60 days, the commissioner shall place the account in the hands of the commissioner
 36.24 of revenue according to chapter 16D, who shall proceed to collect the ~~same~~ amount due.
 36.25 When deemed in the best interests of the state, the commissioner shall take possession of
 36.26 the timber for which an amount is due wherever it may be found and sell the ~~same~~ timber
 36.27 informally or at public auction after giving reasonable notice.

36.28 (b) The proceeds of the sale ~~shall~~ must be applied, first, to the payment of the expenses
 36.29 of seizure and sale; and, second, to the payment of the amount due for the timber, with
 36.30 interest; ~~and~~. The surplus, if any, ~~shall belong~~ belongs to the state; ~~and~~. In case a sufficient
 36.31 amount is not realized to pay these amounts in full, the balance ~~shall~~ must be collected by
 36.32 the attorney general. ~~Neither~~ Payment of the amount, ~~nor~~ the recovery of judgment ~~therefor~~