

Act No. 178  
Public Acts of 2008  
Approved by the Governor  
July 9, 2008  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
July 9, 2008

EFFECTIVE DATE: 91st day after final adjournment of 2008 Regular Session

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
94TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**Introduced by Reps. Hammon, Sheltroun, Constan, Hammel, Johnson, Robert Jones, Jackson, Meadows, Coulouris, Polidori, Gonzales, Vagnozzi and Miller**

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 6014**

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "An act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state; to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify laws relating to the environment and natural resources of the state; to regulate the discharge of certain substances into the environment; to regulate the use of certain lands, waters, and other natural resources of the state; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; to provide for certain charges, fees, assessments, and donations; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 80205 and 80215 (MCL 324.80205 and 324.80215), section 80205 as amended by 2007 PA 8 and section 80215 as added by 2000 PA 229; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 80205. (1) Until March 16, 2009, except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless each person riding on or being towed behind the personal watercraft is wearing a type I, type II, or type III personal flotation device as described in R 281.1234 of the Michigan administrative code.

(2) Beginning March 16, 2009, except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless each person 12 years of age or older riding on or being towed behind the personal watercraft is wearing a type I, type II, or type III personal flotation device as described in R 281.1234 of the Michigan administrative code.

(3) Beginning March 16, 2009, a person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless each person on board or being towed by the personal watercraft who is less than 12 years of age is wearing a type I or type II personal flotation device as described in R 281.1234 of the Michigan administrative code.

(4) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless each person on board the personal watercraft is wearing a personal flotation device that is not inflatable.

(5) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state if a child who is under 7 years of age is on board or being towed behind the personal watercraft unless the child is in the company of his or her parent or guardian or a designee of the parent or guardian.

(6) While operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch on the waters of this state, a person shall have the lanyard attached to his or her person, clothing, or personal flotation device as is appropriate for the personal watercraft.

(7) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state during the period that begins at sunset and ends at 8 a.m. As used in this subsection, "sunset" means that time as determined by the national weather service.

(8) A person operating a personal watercraft on the waters of this state shall not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel, other than a personal watercraft, unless the person is operating the personal watercraft at slow—no wake speed. A person who violates this subsection is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00.

(9) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state where the water depth is less than 2 feet, as determined by vertical measurement, unless 1 or both of the following circumstances exist:

- (a) The personal watercraft is being operated at slow—no wake speed.
- (b) The personal watercraft is being docked or launched.

(10) A person who violates subsection (9) is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00.

(11) A person shall operate a personal watercraft in a reasonable and prudent manner. A maneuver that unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb, or property, including, but not limited to, all of the following, constitutes reckless operation of a personal watercraft under section 80208:

- (a) Weaving through congested vessel traffic.
- (b) Jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed.
- (c) Waiting until the last possible moment before swerving to avoid a collision.

(12) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state carrying more persons than the personal watercraft is designed to carry.

(13) A violation of subsection (12) is prima facie evidence of reckless operation of a watercraft under section 80208.

(14) A person operating a personal watercraft in excess of the speeds established under part 801 is guilty of reckless operation of a personal watercraft under section 80208.

(15) This section does not apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a person preparing to participate or participating in a regatta, race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition held in compliance with section 80164 under a permit issued by the department and at the time and place specified in the permit.

(16) The department shall annually prepare and submit to the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over marine safety issues an accident report related to the use of personal watercraft, the types of personal flotation devices that were being used, and the injuries that resulted.

Sec. 80215. (1) Until October 1, 2011, except as provided in subsection (2), a person under the age of 14 shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state.

(2) Until October 1, 2011, a person who is 12 or more and less than 14 years of age may operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state if all of the following circumstances exist:

- (a) The person is accompanied solely by the person's parent or legal guardian.
- (b) Both the person and the parent or legal guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate.
- (c) The personal watercraft is equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, and the parent or legal guardian has the lanyard attached to his or her person, clothing, or personal flotation device.
- (d) The personal watercraft is designed to carry not less than 2 persons.

(3) A person who was born after December 31, 1978 shall not operate a personal watercraft upon the waters of this state unless he or she first obtains a boating safety certificate.

(4) Beginning October 1, 2011, a person under the age of 16 shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless the person is not less than 14 years of age and 1 of the following circumstances applies:

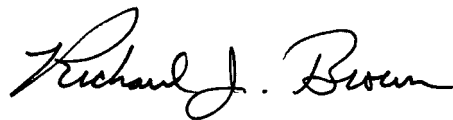
- (a) The person is riding the personal watercraft with his or her parent or guardian or an individual 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian.
- (b) The person is operating or riding a personal watercraft at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or guardian or an individual 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian.

(5) The owner of a personal watercraft or a person having charge over or control of a personal watercraft shall not authorize or knowingly permit the personal watercraft to be operated in violation of this section.

(6) This section does not apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a person preparing to participate or participating in a regatta, race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition held in compliance with section 80164 under a permit issued by the department and at the time and place specified in the permit.

(7) The amendatory act that added subdivisions (4)(a) and (b) shall be known and may be cited as “Ashleigh Iserman’s Law”.

Enacting section 1. Enacting section 2 of 2004 PA 27 is repealed.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

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Governor