
By: **Senator Collins**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Natural Resources - Vessel Operation - Regulations**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying the requirement that the Department of Natural
4 Resources adopt regulations that govern the numbering of vessels for
5 identification purposes so that each type or size vessel that complies with the
6 regulations may be operated in a certain manner; and generally relating to the
7 requirement of the Department to adopt vessel operation regulations.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article - Natural Resources
10 Section 8-704(a) and (b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2000 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article - Natural Resources
15 Section 8-704(b-1)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2000 Replacement Volume)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article - Natural Resources**

21 8-704.

22 (a) The Department may adopt regulations necessary to carry out the
23 provisions of this subtitle.

24 (b) In order to protect the public safety, welfare, and recreational interests in
25 waters of the State, the Department may adopt a program relating to the placement
26 of buoys, mooring buoys, and other apparatus used to secure, berth, or moor vessels in
27 the waters of the State. The Department shall consult with any county affected by the
28 program.

1 (b-1) The Department shall adopt regulations governing the following:

2 (1) The numbering of vessels for identification, safety equipment on
3 vessels, and operations of any vessels subject to this subtitle so that each TYPE OR
4 SIZE vessel complying with the regulations may be operated with equal freedom or
5 under similar requirements on all waters of the State. The numbering system used
6 shall conform to the one adopted by the federal government. These regulations may
7 not conflict with any federal law or regulation applicable to vessels on the waters in
8 the State;

9 (2) The issuance of certificates of title and certificates of boat number;

10 (3) Instructions for making reports and handling personnel and boats in
11 case of accidents;

12 (4) Abandonment, destruction, theft, recovery, sale, or transfer of
13 ownership;

14 (5) Change of address of owner;

15 (6) Use of boats from other jurisdictions on the waters of the State;

16 (7) Issuance of certificates of number for boats changing their state of
17 principal use to Maryland;

18 (8) Cooperation with local governments and the federal authority for
19 special events or to meet emergency situations; and

20 (9) Issuance of certificates of number to owners of fleets or boats for hire
21 or rent.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2001.