



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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WATERCRAFT SAFETY

House Bill 4029

Sponsor: Rep. Phillip E. Hoffman

Committee: Tourism, Fisheries & Wildlife

Complete to 2-4-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4029 AS INTRODUCED 1-31-91

Currently, the Marine Safety Act allows children under the age of 12 to operate a motorboat when accompanied by person at least 16 years of age, and children between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate a motorboat when accompanied by another person at least 16 years of age, or without adult supervision when in possession of a boating safety certificate. However, these provisions do not apply to motorboats that are powered by a motor with less than 6 horsepower. The bill would amend the act to prohibit children under the age of twelve from operating boats powered by motors of more than ten horsepower. The bill would retain the current requirements for children ages 12-16 with regard to boats of more than ten horsepower (instead of six horsepower). In addition, the bill would prohibit a person who was operating a motorboat from crossing within 150 feet behind another vessel that was travelling at a speed that produced a wake. However, the bill would exempt persons operating a motorboat in a boat race or a marine parade from this provision.

MCL 281.1062 and 281.1072b