



Senate Fiscal Agency  
P. O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



BILL ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
Fax: (517) 373-1986  
TDD: (517) 373-0543

House Bill 6014 (Substitute S-2 as reported by the Committee of the Whole)  
Sponsor: Representative Ted Hammon  
House Committee: Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources  
Senate Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend Part 802 (Personal Watercraft) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create "Ashleigh Iserman's Law", which would do the following:

- Prohibit the operation of personal watercraft beginning at sunset, rather than one hour before sunset.
- Raise the minimum age to operate a personal watercraft from 14 to 16, subject to certain exceptions.
- Revise the exceptions to the minimum age requirement, and raise the minimum age of a person to whom the exceptions apply from 12 to 14.
- Repeal the March 23, 2012, sunset on Part 802.

Currently, except as otherwise provided, a person under the age of 14 may not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State. A person who is at least 12 but younger than 14 may operate a personal watercraft if the person is accompanied solely by his or her parent or legal guardian; both the person and the parent or legal guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate; the personal watercraft is equipped 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; and the personal watercraft is designed to carry at least two people.

Under the bill, these provisions would apply until October 1, 2011. Beginning on that date, a person younger than 16 could not operate a personal watercraft unless he or she were at least 14 years old and either 1) the person was riding the personal watercraft with his or her parent or legal guardian, or an individual who was at least 21 years old designated by the parent or guardian; or 2) the person was operating or riding a personal watercraft within 100 feet of the parent, legal guardian, or designated individual.

MCL 324.80205 & 324.80215

Legislative Analyst: Julie Cassidy

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local government. There are no data to indicate how many offenders would be convicted of violating the new restrictions on people under the age of 16 operating a personal watercraft, or how many individuals will be convicted of operating a personal watercraft in the hour before sunset absent the bill. As a rule, a violation of Part 802 is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days and/or a maximum fine of \$100. To the extent that the bill would result in increased or decreased convictions, local governments would incur or save the costs of misdemeanor probation and incarceration in local facilities, which vary by county. Public libraries would receive increased or decreased penal fine revenue.

Date Completed: 6-19-08

Fiscal Analyst: Lindsay Hollander

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.