

# HB0054S01 compared with HB0054

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0054 but was omitted in HB0054S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0054 but was inserted into HB0054S01

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**Boating Safety Education**  
2026 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Michael J. Petersen**  
Senate Sponsor: Daniel McCay



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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill creates an education requirement to operate a watercraft.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 11 ▶ creates a watercraft operator safety course;
- 12 ▶ establishes guidelines for the course; ~~{and}~~
- 13 ▶ prohibits the operation of a watercraft without evidence of completion of the course~~{:}~~ ; and
- 11 ▶ grants rulemaking authority to the Division of Outdoor Recreation to create and manage a safety briefing for liveries.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 None

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 This bill provides a special effective date.

17 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

18 ENACTS:

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19 73-18-15.6 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

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21 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

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Section 1. Section 1 is enacted to read:

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**73-18-15.6. Watercraft operator safety course.**

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(1) As used in this section, "watercraft" means a motorboat or sailboat.

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(2) The division shall create a watercraft operator safety course for the purpose of developing and instilling the knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills necessary for the safe and ethical operation of a watercraft.

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(3) The course shall include:

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(a) instruction on personal flotation devices as described in Subsection 73-18-8(1);

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(b) instruction on driving under the influence, as described in Title 41, Chapter 6a, Part 5, Driving Under the Influence and Reckless Driving, in relation to the operation of a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or the combined influence of alcohol and any drug;

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(c) instruction on best practices for safe operation and navigation of watercraft;

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(d) information about aquatic invasive species necessary to fulfill the requirements described in Subsection 23A-10-304(4); and

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(e) other safety information determined by the division.

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(4) A watercraft operator shall complete the course once every calendar year.

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(5) The division shall ensure that an individual may complete the course in less than 20 minutes on average.

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(6)

(a) The division shall issue proof of completion of the watercraft safety course to a watercraft operator upon completion of the watercraft operator safety course.

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(b) The proof of completion expires the day after December 31 in the calendar year which the operator completes the watercraft operator safety course.

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(7) ~~{An}~~ Except as provided in Subsection (9)(b), an individual may not operate a watercraft unless the individual has in the individual's immediate possession proof that the individual completed the watercraft operator safety course described in this section within the current calendar year.

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(8) Completion of the watercraft operator safety course does not satisfy the requirements of the personal watercraft safety course described in Section 73-18-15.2.

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- 52 (9) A livery may not rent a watercraft to an individual unless:
- 52 (9){(a)} {A watercraft owner or livery may not rent a watercraft to an} the individual {who does  
not provide} provides proof to the {watercraft owner or livery proof} livery that the individual  
completed the watercraft operator safety course within the current calendar year{:} ; or
- 55 (b) the livery provides the individual with a safety briefing as described in Subsection (10).
- 57 (10)
- (a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the division, after  
notifying the commission, shall make rules to create and manage a watercraft operator safety  
briefing.
- 60 (b) The watercraft operator safety briefing described in Subsection (10)(a) shall cover topics contained  
in the safety course described in Subsection (2) appropriate for liveries.
- 63 (c) If an individual attempts to rent a watercraft from a livery and the individual does not have proof of  
completion of the watercraft operator safety course, the livery shall provide a watercraft operator  
safety briefing before renting a watercraft to the individual.
- 55 (10){(11)} {A person} An individual who violates Subsection (7) {or (9)} is guilty of an infraction.

68 Section 2. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.

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