

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Boat Registration and Safety Act is amended  
5 by changing Sections 1-2, 3-7, 3C-4, 4-1, 4-2, 5-3, and 5-13 as  
6 follows:

7 (625 ILCS 45/1-2) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 311-2)

8 Sec. 1-2. Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the  
9 context clearly requires a different meaning:

10 "Airboat" means a vessel that is typically flat-bottomed  
11 and propelled by an aircraft-type propeller powered by an  
12 engine.

13 "Competent" means capable of assisting a water skier in  
14 case of injury or accident.

15 "Dealer" means any person who engages in the business of  
16 manufacturing, selling, or dealing in, on consignment or  
17 otherwise, any number of new watercraft or 5 or more used  
18 watercraft of any make during the year, including any  
19 off-highway vehicle dealer or snowmobile dealer or a person  
20 licensed as a new or used vehicle dealer who also sells or  
21 deals in, on consignment or otherwise, any number of  
22 watercraft as defined in this Act.

23 "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

1       "Inland Rules" means the Inland Navigation Rules Act of  
2       1980.

3       "International regulations" means the International  
4       Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, including  
5       annexes currently in force for the United States.

6       "Leeward side" means the side of a vessel's sail that is  
7       facing away or sheltered from the wind.

8       "Lifeboat" means a small boat kept on board a larger boat  
9       for use in an emergency.

10       "Motorboat" or "power-driven vessel" means any vessel  
11       propelled by machinery.

12       "Nonpowered watercraft" or "human-powered watercraft"  
13       means any canoe, kayak, kiteboard, paddleboard, ribbed  
14       inflatable, or any other watercraft propelled by oars,  
15       paddles, or poles but not powered by sail, canvas, human body  
16       part, or machinery of any sort.

17       "Operate" means to use, navigate, employ, or otherwise be  
18       in actual physical control of a motorboat or vessel.

19       "Operator" means a person who operates or is in actual  
20       physical control of a watercraft.

21       "Owner" means a person, other than a secured party, having  
22       property rights or title to a watercraft. "Owner" includes a  
23       person entitled to the use or possession of a motorboat  
24       subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created  
25       by agreement and securing payment of performance of an  
26       obligation. "Owner" does not include a lessee under a lease

1 not intended as security.

2 "Person" means any individual, firm, corporation,  
3 partnership, or association, and any agent, assignee, trustee,  
4 executor, receiver, or representative thereof.

5 "Personal flotation device" or "PFD" means a device that  
6 is approved by the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, under Part  
7 160 of Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

8 "Personal watercraft" means a vessel propelled by a water  
9 jet pump or other machinery as its primary source of motive  
10 power and designed to be operated by a person sitting,  
11 standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than within the  
12 confines of a hull.

13 "Principally operated" means the vessel is or will be  
14 primarily operated within the jurisdiction of the State during  
15 a calendar year.

16 "Recreational boat" means any vessel manufactured or used  
17 primarily for noncommercial use, or leased, rented, or  
18 chartered to another for noncommercial use.

19 "Sailboat" or "sailing vessel" means any vessel under sail  
20 so long as the propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being  
21 used.

22 "Seaplane" means any aircraft designed to maneuver on the  
23 water.

24 "Specialty prop-craft" means a vessel that is similar in  
25 appearance and operation to a personal watercraft but that is  
26 powered by an outboard or propeller driven motor.

1 "Throwable PFD" has the meaning provided in 33 CFR 175.13.

2 "Underway" applies to a vessel or watercraft at all times  
3 except when it is moored at a dock or anchorage area.

4 "Use" applies to all vessels on the waters of this State,  
5 whether moored or underway.

6 "Vessel" or "watercraft" means every watercraft used or  
7 capable of being used as a means of transportation on water,  
8 except a seaplane on the water, air mattress or similar  
9 device, and boats used for concession rides in artificial  
10 bodies of water designed and used exclusively for such  
11 concessions.

12 "Waters of this State" means any water within the  
13 jurisdiction of this State.

14 "Wearable U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation  
15 device", "wearable U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD", and  
16 "wearable PFD" have the meaning provided for "wearable PFD" in  
17 33 CFR 175.13.

18 "Windward side" means the side of a vessel's sail that has  
19 the wind blowing into the sail.

20 "Wing in Ground" (WIG) vessel means a multimodal vessel  
21 which, in its main operational mode, flies in close proximity  
22 to the surface utilizing surface-effect action.

23 ~~"Vessel" or "Watercraft" means every description of~~  
24 ~~watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of~~  
25 ~~transportation on water, except a seaplane on the water, air~~  
26 ~~mattress or similar device, and boats used for concession~~

1 ~~rides in artificial bodies of water designed and used~~  
2 ~~exclusively for such concessions.~~

3 ~~"Motorboat" means any vessel propelled by machinery,~~  
4 ~~whether or not such machinery is the principal source of~~  
5 ~~propulsion, but does not include a vessel which has a valid~~  
6 ~~marine document issued by the Bureau of Customs of the United~~  
7 ~~States Government or any Federal agency successor thereto.~~

8 ~~"Non powered watercraft" means any canoe, kayak,~~  
9 ~~kiteboard, paddleboard, float tube, or watercraft not~~  
10 ~~propelled by sail, canvas, or machinery of any sort.~~

11 ~~"Sailboat" means any watercraft propelled by sail or~~  
12 ~~canvas, including sailboards. For the purposes of this Act,~~  
13 ~~any watercraft propelled by both sail or canvas and machinery~~  
14 ~~of any sort shall be deemed a motorboat when being so~~  
15 ~~propelled.~~

16 ~~"Airboat" means any boat (but not including airplanes or~~  
17 ~~hydroplanes) propelled by machinery applying force against the~~  
18 ~~air rather than the water as a means of propulsion.~~

19 ~~"Dealer" means any person who engages in the business of~~  
20 ~~manufacturing, selling, or dealing in, on consignment or~~  
21 ~~otherwise, any number of new watercraft, or 5 or more used~~  
22 ~~watercraft of any make during the year, including any~~  
23 ~~off-highway vehicle dealer or snowmobile dealer or a person~~  
24 ~~licensed as a new or used vehicle dealer who also sells or~~  
25 ~~deals in, on consignment or otherwise, any number of~~  
26 ~~watercraft as defined in this Act.~~

1       ~~"Lifeboat" means a small boat kept on board a larger boat~~  
2       ~~for use in emergency.~~

3       ~~"Owner" means a person, other than lien holder, having~~  
4       ~~title to a motorboat. The term includes a person entitled to~~  
5       ~~the use or possession of a motorboat subject to an interest in~~  
6       ~~another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing~~  
7       ~~payment of performance of an obligation, but the term excludes~~  
8       ~~a lessee under a lease not intended as security.~~

9       ~~"Waters of this State" means any water within the~~  
10       ~~jurisdiction of this State.~~

11       ~~"Person" means an individual, partnership, firm,~~  
12       ~~corporation, association, or other entity.~~

13       ~~"Operate" means to navigate or otherwise use a motorboat~~  
14       ~~or vessel.~~

15       ~~"Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.~~

16       ~~"Competent" means capable of assisting a skier in case of~~  
17       ~~injury or accident.~~

18       ~~"Personal flotation device" or "PFD" means a device that~~  
19       ~~is approved by the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, under Part~~  
20       ~~160 of Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations.~~

21       ~~"Recreational boat" means any vessel manufactured or used~~  
22       ~~primarily for noncommercial use; or leased, rented or~~  
23       ~~chartered to another for noncommercial use.~~

24       ~~"Personal watercraft" means a vessel that uses an inboard~~  
25       ~~motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motor~~  
26       ~~power and that is designed to be operated by a person sitting,~~

1 ~~standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the~~  
2 ~~conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel,~~  
3 ~~and includes vessels that are similar in appearance and~~  
4 ~~operation but are powered by an outboard or propeller drive~~  
5 ~~motor.~~

6 ~~"Specialty prop craft" means a vessel that is similar in~~  
7 ~~appearance and operation to a personal watercraft but that is~~  
8 ~~powered by an outboard or propeller driven motor.~~

9 ~~"Underway" applies to a vessel or watercraft at all times~~  
10 ~~except when it is moored at a dock or anchorage area.~~

11 ~~"Use" applies to all vessels on the waters of this State,~~  
12 ~~whether moored or underway.~~

13 (Source: P.A. 97-1136, eff. 1-1-13.)

14 (625 ILCS 45/3-7) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 313-7)

15 Sec. 3-7. Loss of certificate; certificate correction.  
16 Should a certificate of number or registration expiration  
17 decal become lost, destroyed, or mutilated beyond legibility,  
18 or if information required by the Department to be included on  
19 the certificate has changed, the owner of the watercraft shall  
20 make application to the Department for the replacement of the  
21 certificate or decal or for a corrected certificate or decal,  
22 giving his name, address, and the number of his boat and shall  
23 at the ~~same~~ time of application pay to the Department a fee of  
24 \$5.

25 (Source: P.A. 93-32, eff. 7-1-03.)

1 (625 ILCS 45/3C-4) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 313C-4)

2 Sec. 3C-4. Police tows; reports; release of watercraft;  
3 payment ~~Reports on towed watercraft.~~

4 (a) When a watercraft is authorized to be towed away as  
5 provided in Section 3C-2 or 3C-3, the authorization, any hold  
6 order, and any release shall be in writing, or confirmed in  
7 writing, with a copy given to the towing service.

8 (b) When a watercraft is authorized to be towed away as  
9 provided in Section 3C-2, the police headquarters or office of  
10 the law enforcement officer authorizing the towing shall keep  
11 and maintain a record of the watercraft towed, listing the  
12 color, manufacturer's trade name, manufacturer's series name,  
13 hull type, hull material, hull identification number, and  
14 registration number displayed on the watercraft. The record  
15 shall also include the date and hour of tow, location towed  
16 from, location towed to, and reason for towing and the name of  
17 the officer authorizing the tow.

18 (c) The owner, operator, or other legally entitled person  
19 shall be responsible to the towing service for the payment of  
20 applicable removal, towing, storage, and processing charges  
21 and collection costs associated with a watercraft towed or  
22 held under order or authorization of a law enforcement agency.  
23 If a watercraft towed or held under order or authorization of a  
24 law enforcement agency is seized by the ordering or  
25 authorizing agency or any other law enforcement or



1 governmental agency and sold, any unpaid removal, towing,  
2 storage, and processing charges and collection costs shall be  
3 paid to the towing service from the proceeds of the sale. If  
4 the applicable law provides that the proceeds are to be paid  
5 into the treasury of the appropriate civil jurisdiction, then  
6 any unpaid removal, towing, storage, and processing charges  
7 and collection costs shall be paid to the towing service from  
8 the treasury of the civil jurisdiction. Such payment shall not  
9 exceed the amount of proceeds from the sale, with the balance  
10 to be paid by the owner, operator, or other legally entitled  
11 person.

12 (d) Upon the delivery of a written release order to the  
13 towing service, a watercraft subject to a hold order shall be  
14 released to the owner, operator, or other legally entitled  
15 person upon proof of ownership or other entitlement and upon  
16 payment of applicable removal, towing, storage, and processing  
17 charges and collection costs.

18 (Source: P.A. 84-646.)

19 (625 ILCS 45/4-1) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 314-1)

20 Sec. 4-1. Personal flotation devices.

21 A. No person may operate a watercraft unless at least one  
22 wearable U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device  
23 for each person ~~PF~~ is on board, so placed as to be readily  
24 available for each person.

25 B. No person may operate a personal watercraft or

1 specialty prop-craft unless each person aboard is wearing a  
2 wearable U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device  
3 ~~PFD approved by the United States Coast Guard~~. No person on  
4 board a personal watercraft shall use an inflatable PFD in  
5 order to meet the PFD requirements of subsection A of this  
6 Section.

7 C. No person may operate a watercraft 16 feet or more in  
8 length, except a canoe or kayak, unless at least one readily  
9 accessible United States Coast Guard approved throwable PFD is  
10 on board.

11 D. (Blank).

12 E. When assisting a person on water skis, aquaplane or  
13 similar device, there must be one wearable U.S. ~~United States~~  
14 Coast Guard approved PFD on board the watercraft for each  
15 person being assisted or towed or worn by the person being  
16 assisted or towed.

17 F. No person may operate a watercraft unless each device  
18 required by this Section is:

19 1. in serviceable condition;

20 2. identified by a label bearing a description and  
21 approval number demonstrating that the device has been  
22 approved by the United States Coast Guard;

23 3. of the appropriate size for the person for whom it  
24 is intended;

25 4. in the case of a wearable PFD, readily accessible  
26 aboard the watercraft;

1           5. in the case of a throwable PFD, immediately  
2           available for use;

3           6. out of its original packaging; and

4           7. not stowed under lock and key.

5           G. Approved personal flotation devices are defined as a  
6           device that is approved by the United States Coast Guard under  
7           Title 46 CFR Part 160.

8           H. (Blank).

9           H-5. An approved and appropriately sized wearable U.S.  
10          Coast Guard approved personal flotation device shall be worn  
11          by each person under the age of 13 while in tow.

12          I. No person may operate any ~~a~~ watercraft ~~under 26 feet in~~  
13          ~~length~~ unless an approved and appropriately ~~appropriate~~ sized  
14          wearable U.S. United States Coast Guard approved personal  
15          flotation device is being properly worn by each person under  
16          the age of 13 on the deck of a watercraft or in an open  
17          watercraft ~~board the watercraft~~ at all times in which the  
18          watercraft is underway; however, this requirement shall not  
19          apply to persons who are enclosed in a cabin or below the top  
20          deck on a watercraft, on an anchored watercraft that is a  
21          platform for swimming or diving, or aboard a charter  
22          "passenger for hire" watercraft with a licensed captain. below  
23          ~~decks or in totally enclosed cabin spaces. The provisions of~~  
24          ~~this subsection I shall not apply to a person operating a~~  
25          ~~watercraft on an individual's private property.~~

26          J. Racing shells, rowing sculls, racing canoes, and racing

1 kayaks are exempt from the PFD, of any type, carriage  
2 requirements under this Section provided that the racing  
3 shell, racing scull, racing canoe, or racing kayak is  
4 participating in an event sanctioned by the Department as a  
5 PFD optional event. The Department may adopt rules to  
6 implement this subsection.

7 (Source: P.A. 100-469, eff. 6-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18.)

8 (625 ILCS 45/4-2) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 314-2)

9 Sec. 4-2. Navigation lights ~~Lights~~.

10 A. Watercraft subject to this Section shall be divided  
11 into classes as follows: ~~It is unlawful to operate any vessel~~  
12 ~~less than 39 feet in length unless the following lights are~~  
13 ~~carried and displayed when underway from sunset to sunrise:~~

14 1. Class 1: Less than 16 feet in length. ~~A bright,~~  
15 ~~white light after to show all around the horizon, visible~~  
16 ~~for a distance of 2 miles. The word "visible" as used~~  
17 ~~herein means visible on a dark night with clear~~  
18 ~~atmosphere.~~

19 2. Class 2: 16 feet or over and less than 26 feet in  
20 length. ~~A combination light in the forepart of the boat~~  
21 ~~lower than the white light after, showing green to~~  
22 ~~starboard and red to port, so fixed as to throw a light~~  
23 ~~from dead ahead to 2 points abaft the beam on their~~  
24 ~~respective sides and visible for a distance of not less~~  
25 ~~than 1 mile.~~

1           3. Class 3: 26 feet or over and less than 40 feet in  
2 length. ~~Lights under International Rules may be shown as~~  
3 ~~an alternative to the above requirements.~~

4           4. Class 4: 40 feet or over and less than 65 feet in  
5 length.

6           B. Every motorboat, underway from sunset to sunrise or  
7 underway in weather causing reduced visibility, shall carry  
8 and exhibit the following United States Coast Guard approved  
9 lights when underway and, during such time, shall not use any  
10 other lights that may be mistaken for or interfere with those  
11 prescribed as follows:

12           1. A Class 1 or Class 2 motorboat shall carry the  
13 following lights:

14               (a) A bright white light aft to show all around the  
15 horizon; and

16               (b) A combined light in the fore part of the  
17 watercraft and lower than the white light aft, showing  
18 green to starboard and red to port, so fixed as to  
19 throw the light from right ahead to 2 points (22.5  
20 degrees) abaft the beam on their respective sides.

21           2. A Class 3 or Class 4 motorboat shall carry the  
22 following lights:

23               (a) A bright white light in the fore part of the  
24 watercraft as near the stern as practicable, so  
25 constructed as to show the unbroken light over an arc  
26 of the horizon of 20 points (225 degrees) of the

1 compass, so fixed as to throw the light 10 points  
2 (112.5 degrees) on each side of the watercraft,  
3 namely, from right ahead to 2 points (22.5 degrees)  
4 abaft the beam on either side;

5 (b) A bright white light aft, mounted higher than  
6 the white light forward, to show all around the  
7 horizon; and

8 (c) On the starboard side, a green light so  
9 constructed as to show an unbroken light over an arc of  
10 the horizon of 10 points (112.5 degrees) of the  
11 compass, so fixed as to throw the light from right  
12 ahead to 2 points (22.5 degrees) abaft the beam on the  
13 starboard side. On the port side, a red light so  
14 constructed as to show an unbroken light over an arc of  
15 the horizon of 10 points (112.5 degrees) of the  
16 compass, so fixed as to throw the light from right  
17 ahead to 2 points (22.5 degrees) abaft the beam on the  
18 port side. The side lights shall be fitted with  
19 inboard screens so set as to prevent these lights from  
20 being seen across the bow.

21 3. A Class 1 or Class 2 motorboat propelled by sail  
22 alone shall exhibit the combined light prescribed by  
23 paragraph (1) and a 12-point (135 degrees) white light  
24 aft. A Class 3 or Class 4 motorboat, when so propelled,  
25 shall exhibit the colored side lights, suitably screened  
26 as prescribed by paragraph (2) and a 12-point (135

1 degrees) white light aft.

2 4. Every white light prescribed by this Section shall  
3 be of such character as to be visible at a distance of at  
4 least 2 miles. Every colored light prescribed by this  
5 Section shall be of such character as to be visible at a  
6 distance of at least one mile. As used in this subsection  
7 "visible", when applied to lights, means visible on a dark  
8 night with clear atmosphere.

9 5. If propelled by sail and machinery, a motorboat  
10 shall carry the lights required by this Section for a  
11 motorboat propelled by machinery only.

12 6. All other watercraft over 65 feet in length and  
13 those propelled solely by wind effect on the sail shall  
14 display lights prescribed by federal regulations.

15 ~~Watercraft propelled by muscular power when underway shall~~  
16 ~~carry on board from sunset to sunrise, but not fixed to any~~  
17 ~~part of the boat, a lantern or flashlight capable of showing a~~  
18 ~~white light visible all around the horizon at a distance of 2~~  
19 ~~miles or more, and shall display such lantern in sufficient~~  
20 ~~time to avoid collision with another watercraft.~~

21 C. Nonpowered watercraft shall carry, ready at hand, a  
22 lantern or flashlight showing a white light that shall be  
23 exhibited in sufficient time to avert collision. Manually  
24 propelled watercraft used on the waters of this State where  
25 power-driven vessels are prohibited are exempt from the  
26 provisions of this Section. ~~Every vessel 39 feet or more in~~

1 ~~length shall carry and display when underway such additional~~  
2 ~~or alternate lights as shall be required by the U. S. Coast~~  
3 ~~Guard for watercraft of equivalent length and type.~~

4 D. Any watercraft may carry and exhibit the lights  
5 required by the international regulations in lieu of the  
6 lights required by subsection B of this Section. ~~Sailboats~~  
7 ~~equipped with motors and being propelled partly or solely by~~  
8 ~~such motors shall carry and display the same lights required~~  
9 ~~for motorboats of the same class. Sailboats being propelled~~  
10 ~~entirely by sail between sunset and sunrise shall have lighted~~  
11 ~~the combination running light, and a white light visible aft~~  
12 ~~only. Sailboats 26 feet or more in length, equipped with~~  
13 ~~motors but being propelled entirely by sail between sunset and~~  
14 ~~sunrise, shall have lighted the colored side lights suitably~~  
15 ~~screened, but not the white lights prescribed for motorboats.~~

16 E. All watercraft, when anchored, other than in a special  
17 anchorage area as defined in 33 CFR 109.10, shall, from sunset  
18 to sunrise, carry and display a steady white light visible all  
19 around the horizon for a distance of no less than 2 miles.  
20 ~~Dinghies, tenders and other watercraft, whose principal~~  
21 ~~function is as an auxiliary to other larger watercraft, when~~  
22 ~~so operating need carry only a flashlight visible to other~~  
23 ~~craft in the area, anything in this section to the contrary~~  
24 ~~notwithstanding.~~

25 F. (Blank). ~~Vessels at anchor between the hours of sunset~~  
26 ~~and sunrise, except those in a "Special Anchorage Area", shall~~



1 ~~display such anchor lights as shall be required by the U. S.~~  
2 ~~Coast Guard for watercraft of equivalent length and type.~~

3 G. (Blank). ~~Watercraft operated manually or by motor which~~  
4 ~~are located on bodies of water where motors of over 7 1/2~~  
5 ~~horsepower are prohibited must be equipped during the hours~~  
6 ~~between sunset and sunrise with a lantern or flashlight which~~  
7 ~~is capable of showing a beam for 2 miles, anything in this~~  
8 ~~Section to the contrary notwithstanding.~~

9 (Source: P.A. 88-524.)

10 (625 ILCS 45/5-3) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 315-3)

11 Sec. 5-3. Interference with navigation.

12 (a) No person shall operate any watercraft in a manner  
13 which unreasonably or unnecessarily interferes with other  
14 watercraft or with the free and proper navigation of the  
15 waterways of the State. ~~Anchoring under bridges or in heavily~~  
16 ~~traveled channels constitutes such interference if~~  
17 ~~unreasonable under the prevailing circumstances.~~

18 (b) A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the  
19 passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel  
20 or canal.

21 (c) A vessel nearing a bend or an area of a narrow channel  
22 or canal where other vessels may be obscured by an intervening  
23 obstruction shall navigate with alertness and caution and  
24 shall sound the appropriate audible signal as required by the  
25 Inland Rules as written by the United States Coast Guard and

1 this Act.

2 (d) A vessel shall avoid anchoring in a narrow channel,  
3 under bridges, or in heavily traveled channels or canals, if  
4 unreasonable under the prevailing circumstances.

5 (Source: P.A. 82-783.)

6 (625 ILCS 45/5-13) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 315-8)

7 Sec. 5-13. Traffic rules.

8 A. The area straight ahead of a vessel to the point that is  
9 22.5 degrees beyond the middle of the vessel on the starboard  
10 side of the watercraft shall be designated the danger zone. An  
11 operator of a watercraft shall yield the right-of-way to any  
12 other watercraft occupying or entering into the danger zone  
13 that may result in collision. ~~Passing. When 2 boats are~~  
14 ~~approaching each other "head on" or nearly so (so as to involve~~  
15 ~~risk of collision), each boat must bear to the right and pass~~  
16 ~~the other boat on its left side.~~

17 A-5. Head-on situation.

18 (1) If 2 power-driven vessels are meeting head-on or  
19 nearly head-on courses so as to involve risk of collision,  
20 each shall alter course to starboard so that each shall  
21 pass on the port side of the other.

22 (2) A vessel proceeding along the course of a narrow  
23 channel or canal shall keep as near to the outer limit of  
24 the channel or canal that lies on the starboard side as is  
25 safe and practicable.

1           (3) A power-driven vessel operating in narrow channels  
2           and proceeding downstream shall have the right-of-way over  
3           a vessel proceeding upstream. The vessel proceeding  
4           upstream shall yield as necessary to permit safe passing.

5           B. Crossing. As used in this Section, "crossing" means 2  
6           or more watercraft traveling in directions that would have the  
7           path of travel of the watercraft intersect each other. ~~When~~  
8           ~~boats approach each other obliquely or at right angles, the~~  
9           ~~boat approaching on the right side has the right of way.~~

10           (1) If 2 power-driven vessels are crossing so as to  
11           involve the risk of collision, the vessel that has the  
12           other on the starboard side shall keep out of the way and  
13           shall avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel.

14           (2) A power-driven vessel crossing a river shall keep  
15           out of the way of a power-driven vessel ascending or  
16           descending the river.

17           (3) A vessel may not cross a narrow channel or canal if  
18           the crossing impedes the passage of a vessel that can only  
19           safely navigate within the channel or canal.

20           C. Overtaking. ~~One boat may overtake another on either~~  
21           ~~side but must grant right of way to the overtaken boat.~~

22           (1) A vessel overtaking any other shall give way to  
23           the vessel being overtaken.

24           (2) If a vessel operator is in doubt as to whether he  
25           or she is overtaking another vessel, the operator shall  
26           assume he or she is overtaking the other vessel and shall

1 act accordingly.

2 (3) Any subsequent alteration of the bearing between  
3 the 2 vessels shall not make the overtaking vessel a  
4 crossing vessel within the meaning of this Section or  
5 relieve the overtaking operator of the duty to keep clear  
6 of the overtaken vessel until finally past and clear.

7 (4) When overtaking in a narrow channel or canal, the  
8 operator of a power-driven vessel intending to overtake  
9 another power-driven vessel shall proceed to pass safety  
10 only after indicating his or her intention by sounding the  
11 horn as follows:

12 (a) one short blast from the horn signifies a  
13 request to pass on the overtaken vessel's starboard  
14 side;

15 (b) 2 short blasts from the horn signify a request  
16 to pass on the overtaken vessel's port side.

17 (5) The operator of the power-driven vessel being  
18 overtaken shall:

19 (a) acknowledge the request by sounding the same  
20 signal; or

21 (b) sound 5 short blasts from the horn to indicate  
22 danger or to warn the overtaking vessel not to pass.

23 No response from the overtaken vessel shall be  
24 interpreted as an indication of danger and is the same as  
25 if 5 short blasts from the horn were sounded. In the  
26 absence of an audible signal or horn, a light signal

1 device using the appropriate number of rapid bursts of  
2 light may be used.

3 D. Sailing vessels.

4 (1) The operator of a power-driven vessel shall yield  
5 the right-of-way to any nonpowered or sailing vessel  
6 unless the nonpowered vessel is overtaking the  
7 power-driven vessel or ~~Sailboats and Rowboats. When a~~  
8 ~~motorboat is approaching a boat propelled solely by sails~~  
9 ~~or oars, the motorboat must yield the right of way to the~~  
10 ~~sailboat or rowboat except,~~ when a large craft is  
11 navigating in a confined channel, the large craft has the  
12 right-of-way ~~right of way~~ over a boat propelled solely by  
13 oars or sails.

14 (2) If 2 sailing vessels are approaching one another,  
15 so as to involve risk of collision, one of them shall keep  
16 out of the way of the other as follows:

17 (a) If each has the wind on a different side, the  
18 vessel that has the wind on the port side shall give  
19 way to the other vessel.

20 (b) If both have the wind on the same side, the  
21 vessel that is to windward shall give way to the vessel  
22 that is to leeward.

23 (c) If a vessel with the wind on the port side sees  
24 a vessel to windward and cannot determine with  
25 certainty whether the other vessel has the wind on the  
26 port or starboard side, the vessel shall give way to

1                   the other vessel.

2                   (Source: P.A. 82-783.)