**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 174**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Johnson

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Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry**

Summary: Personal Floatation Device

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/14/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 107)

 1/14/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** (Senate Journal‑page 107)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=174&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/14/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/174_20250114.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 50‑21‑870, RELATING TO PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND BOATING SAFETY, SO AS TO REQUIRE ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF THIRTEEN TO WEAR A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE ON ANY SIZE VESSEL UNLESS THE PERSON IS IN THE CABIN OR BELOW DECK OF THE VESSEL.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 50‑21‑870(B)(1)(b) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (b) operate, be in possession of, or give permission to operate a Class “A” motor boatvessel, as defined in Section 50‑21‑10(25), while upon the waters of this State unless each person under the age of twelve thirteen aboard the Class “A” motor boatvessel is wearing a United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, Type I, Type II, Type III, or Type V, unless the person under the age of thirteen is in the cabin of the vessel or below deck of the vessel;

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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