



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 140202, **Version:** 2

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140202  
SUBSTITUTE 2

### THE CHAIR

A substitute ordinance relating to safety requirements for boating.

118-80-10 cr

This ordinance establishes safety requirements for boats operating in the navigable waters of the city. These requirements relate to personal flotation devices for children, sound-signaling appliances and visual distress signals.

The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Milwaukee do ordain as follows:

Part 1. Section 118-80-10 of the code is created to read:

### **118-80. Boat Regulations, Milwaukee Harbor.**

**10. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.** a. Personal Flotation Devices for Children. In accordance with 33 CFR 175.15(c), any child under 13 years of age shall wear a U.S. coast guard-approved personal flotation device on any recreational vessel while underway in the navigable waters of the city unless the child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

b. Sound-Signaling Appliances. All vessels operating in the navigable waters of the city shall be equipped with sound-signaling appliances as follows:

b-1. Vessel less than 39.4 feet in length: Some means of making an efficient sound signal. Examples of means of making an efficient sound signal include, but are not limited to, a handheld air horn, and athletic whistle and a manufacturer-installed horn. A human voice or sound is not an acceptable means of making an efficient sound signal.

b-2. Vessel 39.4 feet or greater in length: A sound-signaling appliance capable of producing an efficient sound signal, audible for one-half mile with a duration of 4 to 6 seconds. In addition, the vessel shall carry on board a bell with a clapper. The bell shall measure not less than 7.9 inches in diameter at the mouth.

c. Visual Distress Signals. Every vessel 16 feet or more in length, every vessel operating as an uninspected passenger vessel, regardless of size, and every vessel less than 16 feet in length operating between sunset and sunrise shall have on board, when operating in the navigable waters of the city, one or more of the following numbers and combinations of visual distress signals:

c-1. One distress flag and one electric distress light.

c-2. Three orange smoke and one electric distress light.

c-3. Three red flare distress signals, whether hand-held, parachute or aerial.

d. Exceptions. The requirements of par. c shall not apply to any of the following, unless operating between sunset and sunrise:

d-1. A vessel competing in an organized marine event, such as a race, regatta or parade.

d-2. A manually-propelled vessel.

d-3. A sailboat of open construction that is not equipped with propulsion machinery and is under 26 feet in length.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

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Legislative Reference Bureau

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE ORDINANCE  
IS LEGAL AND ENFORCEABLE

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Office of the City Attorney

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Police Department

LRB152434-3

Jeff Osterman

06/25/2014