

CHAPTER 422

S.B. No. 1074

AN ACT

relating to required lights and sound-producing devices on a vessel or motorboat.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Sections 31.064 and 31.065, Parks and Wildlife Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 31.064. LIGHTS. ~~[(a)]~~ A vessel or motorboat when not at dock must have and exhibit at least one bright light, lantern, or flashlight from sunset to sunrise in all weather. A vessel or motorboat when underway between sunset and sunrise in all weather must have and exhibit the lights prescribed *by the commandant of the Coast Guard* ~~[below]~~ for boats of its class. No other lights that may be mistaken for those prescribed may be exhibited.

~~[(b) Each class A and class 1 motorboat must have the following lights:~~

~~[(1) a bright white light aft to show all around the horizon; and~~

~~[(2) a combined lantern in the fore part of the vessel and lower than the white light aft, showing green to starboard and red to port, so fixed as to throw the light from right ahead to two points abaft the beam on their respective sides.~~

~~[(c) Each class 2 and class 3 motorboat must have the following lights and light screens:~~

~~[(1) a bright white light in the fore part of the vessel as near the stem as practicable, so constructed as to show an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 20 points of the compass and so fixed as to throw the light 10 points on each side of the vessel, namely from right ahead to 2 points abaft the beam on either side;~~

~~[(2) a bright white light aft to show all around the horizon and higher than the white light forward;~~

~~[(3) a green light on the starboard side so constructed as to show an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 10 points of the compass and so fixed as to throw the light from right ahead to 2 points abaft the beam on the starboard side;~~

~~[(4) a red light on the port side so constructed as to show an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 10 points of the compass and so fixed as to throw the light from right ahead to 2 points abaft the beam on the port side; and~~

~~[(5) inboard screens fitted on the starboard and port side lights of sufficient length and so set as to prevent the side lights from being seen across the bow.~~

~~[(d) Each class A and class 1 motorboat when propelled by sail alone must have the combined lantern but not the white light aft prescribed in Subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~[(e) Each class 2 and class 3 motorboat when propelled by sail alone must have the colored side lights, suitably screened, but not the white lights prescribed in Subsection (c) of this section.~~

~~[(f) Motorboats of all classes when propelled by sail alone must have ready at hand a lantern or flashlight showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to avert a collision.~~

~~[(g) A white light required by this section must be visible at a distance of at least two miles. A colored light required by this section must be visible at a distance of at least one mile. In this section, "visible" means visible on dark nights with clear atmosphere.~~

~~[(h) A motorboat propelled by sail and machinery must have the lights required by this section for motorboats propelled by machinery alone.~~

~~[(i) A motorboat may have and exhibit the lights required by the Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1948, Act of October 11, 1951 (65 Stat. 406-420), as amended, instead of the lights specified by this section.]~~

Sec. 31.065. *SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICES [WHISTLES; BELLS].* [(a)] A motorboat [of class 1, 2, or 3] must have an efficient whistle or other sound-producing device if one is required by the commandant of the Coast Guard [mechanical appliance].

[(b) A motorboat of class 2 or 3 must have an efficient bell.]

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on March 24, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House on May 21, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 6, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.