

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—
H.P. 671 - L.D. 1042

**An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational
Purposes to Ensure All Children Under 13 Years of Age Wear United States
Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 228, §§13 and 14, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) Fails to ensure that a child who has not attained 13 years of age, including the operator, is wearing an appropriate United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while the watercraft is underway and used for recreational purposes unless the child who has not attained 13 years of age is below decks or in an enclosed cabin. This subparagraph does not apply to a watercraft with a United States Coast Guard certificate of inspection.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.