

# An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1156

By: Worthen of the House

and

Leewright of the Senate

An Act relating to public health and safety; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Sections 4002, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 323, O.S.L. 2012 and 4005 (63 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 4002), which relate to the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act; modifying definitions; updating statutory references; exempting canoes, kayaks and paddleboats from title and registration requirements; providing an exception; allowing owners of exempt vessels to title and register vessels for certain purposes; requiring payment of title and registration fees; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 4002, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 323, O.S.L. 2012 (63 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 4002), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4002. As used in the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act:

1. "Boat livery" means a business establishment engaged in renting or hiring out vessels for profit;

2. "Canoe" means a light narrow ~~boat~~ vessel with both ends typically tapered to a sharp and point which is propelled solely by paddling and includes similar craft such as kayaks its occupants,

using a single-bladed paddle as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches or similar arrangements;

3. "Certificate of documentation" means a document issued by the United States Coast Guard which is legal proof of ownership of a vessel;

4. "Certificate of registration" means a document which is legal proof of registration of a vessel or motor;

5. "Certificate of title" means a document which is proof of legal ownership of a vessel and/or motor;

6. "Commission" means:

- a. the Oklahoma Tax Commission, or
- b. the equivalent vessel registration and licensing agency of a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state;

7. "Dealer" means any person engaged in the business of selling, trading, renting with option to purchase, or attempting to negotiate or negotiating sales or exchanges of interests in new or used vessels or motors, or new and used vessels or motors, or any combination thereof;

8. "Dealer agreement" means the agreement, authorization or written contract between a manufacturer and distributor and a new vessel dealer which purports to establish the legal rights and obligations of the parties to the agreement, authorization or written contract with regard to the purchase and sale of new vessels or new motors;

9. "Designated successor" means one or more persons nominated by the new vessel dealer, in a written document filed by the dealer with the manufacturer or distributor at the time the dealer agreement is executed, to succeed the dealer in the event of the dealer's death or incapacity. If a designated successor is not able to succeed the new vessel dealer because of the designated successor's death or legal incapacity, the dealer shall execute a new document nominating a designated successor within sixty (60) calendar days after the date of the death or incapacity;

10. "Distributor" means a person, resident or nonresident, who in whole or in part offers for sale, sells, or distributes a new vessel or new motor to a new vessel dealer or who maintains a factory representative, resident or nonresident, or who controls a person, resident or nonresident, who in whole or in part offers for sale, sells, or distributes a new vessel or new motor to a new vessel dealer;

11. "Distributor branch" means a branch office similarly maintained by a distributor or wholesaler for the same purposes a factory branch is maintained;

12. "Distributor representative" means any person, firm, association, corporation or trust and each officer and employee thereof engaged as a representative of a distributor or distributor branch of vessels or motors, for the purpose of making or promoting the sale of his or her, its or their vessels or motors, or for supervising or contacting his, its or their dealers or prospective dealers;

13. "Documented vessel" means any vessel in this state which shall have and carry on board the original certificate of documentation in legible form as issued by the United States Coast Guard or federal agency successor thereto. All documented vessels shall be required to display a current State of Oklahoma annual registration decal;

14. "Factory branch" means a branch office maintained by a person, firm, association, corporation or trust who manufactures or assembles vessels or motors for the sale of vessels or motors to distributors, or for the sale of vessels or motors to dealers, or for directing or supervising, in whole or in part, its representatives;

15. "Factory representative" means any person, firm, association, corporation or trust and each officer and employee thereof engaged as a representative of a manufacturer of vessels or motors or by a factory branch, for the purpose of making or promoting the sale of his, her, its or their vessels or motors, or for supervising or contacting his, its or their dealers or prospective dealers;

16. "Hull identification number" means the serial number affixed to the outside of the hull of a vessel on the upper

starboard side (right) corner of the transom (back wall) which is assigned by the manufacturer or the Commission;

17. "Inboard motor" means an internal combustion engine mounted inside a vessel which provides the transfer of power to move a vessel through the water;

18. "Inboard/outboard motor" means an internal combustion engine mounted inside a vessel and an external stern drive attached through the transom of the vessel providing the transfer of power to move the vessel through the water;

19. "John boat" means a narrow, flat bottomed square-ended ~~boat~~ vessel propelled by a pole, paddle or a motor of less than ten (10) horsepower;

20. "Kayak" means a light narrow vessel with both ends typically tapered to a sharp point and propelled by double-bladed paddles as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches or similar arrangements by one or more individuals seated inside or on top of the vessel and facing the direction of travel;

21. "Kiteboard" means a vessel, similar in appearance to a surfboard, with or without foot straps or bindings, combined with a large controllable kite to propel the rider and board across the water;

22. "Lifeboat" means a vessel carried on another vessel in excess of sixty-five (65) feet for use if such other vessel has to be abandoned;

~~21.~~ 23. "Manufacturer" means a person who manufactures or assembles new vessels or new motors, or a distributor, factory branch, or factory representative;

~~22.~~ 24. "Motor" means any internal combustion engine mounted at the stern of a vessel or placed inside a vessel which provides the transfer of power to move the vessel through the water;

~~23.~~ 25. "New vessel dealer" means a person who holds a dealer agreement granted by a manufacturer or distributor for the sale of the manufacturer's or distributor's vessels or motors, who is engaged in the business of purchasing, selling, exchanging, or

dealing in new vessels or new motors, and who has an established place of business;

~~24.~~ 26. "Operate" means to navigate or be in actual physical control of a vessel or otherwise use a vessel or motor;

~~25.~~ 27. "Outboard motor" means an internal combustion engine capable of being externally mounted at the stern of a vessel which provides the transfer of power to move a vessel through the water;

~~26.~~ 28. "Owner" means a person, other than a lienholder, having a property interest in or title to a vessel or motor. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel or motor subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment or performance of an obligation, but the term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security;

~~27.~~ 29. "Paddleboard" means a vessel, similar in appearance to a surfboard, intended to be propelled only by its occupants using a single- or double-bladed paddle as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches or similar arrangements;

30. "Paddleboat" means a ~~boat~~ vessel less than eight (8) feet in length designed to be propelled solely by human power through a belt, chain or gears;

~~28.~~ 31. "Permanent number" means the distinctive and unique number which:

- a. the Commission permanently assigns to a vessel, irrespective of any change of ownership of said vessel. The permanent number shall begin with the letters "OK", followed by four numerals, and then followed by two letters, or
- b. any federally recognized Indian tribe in this state assigns to a vessel;

provided, the number is configured as prescribed in 33 C.F.R., Parts 173 and 174;

~~29.~~ 32. "Person" means a natural person, partnership, corporation, association, trust, estate or other legal entity;

~~30.~~ 33. "Proposed new vessel dealer" means a person who has an application pending for a new dealer agreement with a manufacturer or distributor. Proposed new vessel dealer does not include a person whose dealer agreement is being renewed or continued;

~~31.~~ 34. "Purchase date" means the purchase date on a bill of sale or the date of complete assignment of title by the current owner;

~~32.~~ 35. "Sailboard" means a vessel, similar in appearance to a surfboard, equipped with a swivel-mounted mast and sail not secured to a hull by guys or stays;

36. "State" means the State of Oklahoma;

~~33.~~ 37. "State of principal use" means the state where the vessel or motor is used, is to be used, or remains for any period in excess of sixty (60) calendar days;

~~34.~~ 38. "Vessel" means every device, other than a ~~canoe, paddleboat or~~ seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, ~~including but not limited to personal watercraft; and~~

~~35.~~ 39. "Waters of this state" means and includes all waters within the territorial limits of this state; provided, such phrase shall not mean or include waters which are entirely owned by a private person or persons, and to which the public is not permitted access; and

40. "Water-thrust device" means a device tethered to the water jet mechanism of a vessel in a manner so that the water jet of the powering vessel provides propulsion for the attached device. Such devices shall be considered a component of the powering vessel.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 4005, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4005. A. A vessel or motor shall not be required to be titled and registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act, ~~Section 4002 et seq. of this title,~~ if:

1. Such vessel or motor is owned by the United States, a state other than the State of Oklahoma, any agency thereof, or any subdivision of the state; provided, however, if such vessel is used for recreational or rental purposes on the waters of this state, said vessel shall be registered and numbered in accordance with Section 4002 et seq. of this title;

2. Such vessel or motor is owned by a visiting nonresident and is currently registered in another state. Provided that if any such vessel or motor remains in Oklahoma in excess of sixty (60) calendar days, such vessel or motor shall be registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act and the registration fees due thereon from the date of entry into Oklahoma must be paid;

3. Such vessel or motor is from a country other than the United States provided such vessel or motor does not remain in Oklahoma in excess of sixty (60) calendar days;

4. Such vessel is used exclusively and solely as a lifeboat;

5. Such vessel is used exclusively and solely for racing purposes;

6. Such vessel is a commercial flotation device which is issued a ~~permit license~~ by the ~~Oklahoma Scenic River Commission~~ Grand River Dam Authority pursuant to the provisions of ~~Section 1461 et seq. of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ the Scenic Rivers Act; provided, a commercial flotation device shall be required to be titled pursuant to the provisions of Section 4008 of this title; ~~or~~

7. Such vessel is a documented vessel provided such documented vessel shall be required to be registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 4016 of this title; or

8. Such vessel is a canoe, kayak or paddleboat as defined in Section 4002 of this title, except that such vessels, when powered by any means other than human power, shall be titled and registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act.

B. Motors classified as inboard motors shall not be required to be titled or registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act.

C. All vessels and motors which are owned by the State of Oklahoma, its agencies or departments, or political subdivisions thereof, or which, under the law, would be exempt from direct ad valorem taxation, shall be titled and registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act. Provided, all vessels and motors titled and registered to the Department of Public Safety shall be exempt from all registration fees.

D. All other vessels shall be titled and registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act.

E. At the request of the owner, any vessel exempt from the title and registration provisions of this section shall be titled and registered pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act for the purposes of proof of ownership or vessel identification. All title and registration fees shall be paid by the owner of the vessel.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.



Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 2nd day of April, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_