**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**A59, R110, H3792**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. Rutherford

Document Path: l:\council\bills\swb\5162cm11.docx

Introduced in the House on March 3, 2011

Introduced in the Senate on April 28, 2011

Last Amended on June 1, 2011

Passed by the General Assembly on June 29, 2011

Governor's Action: August 1, 2011, Signed

Summary: Operating a vessel with a blue light

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/3/2011 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\03-03-11.docx))

3/3/2011 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\03-03-11.docx))

4/13/2011 House Recalled from Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 39](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\04-13-11.docx))

4/14/2011 Scrivener's error corrected

4/26/2011 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 80](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\04-26-11.docx))

4/26/2011 House Roll call Yeas‑108 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 80](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\04-26-11.docx))

4/27/2011 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 11](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\04-27-11.docx))

4/28/2011 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\04-28-11.docx))

4/28/2011 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\04-28-11.docx))

5/19/2011 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\05-19-11.docx))

6/1/2011 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 60](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\06-01-11.docx))

6/1/2011 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 60](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\06-01-11.docx))

6/1/2011 Senate Roll call Ayes‑38 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 60](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\06-01-11.docx))

6/2/2011 Scrivener's error corrected

6/2/2011 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\06-02-11.docx))

6/29/2011 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\06-29-11.docx))

6/29/2011 House Roll call Yeas‑103 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\06-29-11.docx))

7/26/2011 Ratified R 110

8/1/2011 Signed By Governor

8/5/2011 Effective date 08/01/11

8/5/2011 Act No. 59

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[3/3/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3792_20110303.docx)

[4/13/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3792_20110413.docx)

[4/14/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3792_20110414.docx)

[5/19/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3792_20110519.docx)

[6/1/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3792_20110601.docx)

[6/2/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3792_20110602.docx)

[6/2/2011-A](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3792_20110602A.docx)

(A59, R110, H3792)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 50‑21‑85, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE CONDITIONS UPON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A VESSEL DISPLAYING, REFLECTING, OR FLASHING A BLUE LIGHT, SO AS TO REVISE THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A VESSEL WHILE DISPLAYING A BLUE LIGHT, AND TO REVISE THE PENALTY PROVISION.**

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

**Display of a blue light on a watercraft**

SECTION 1. Section 50‑21‑85 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑21‑85. A person shall not operate a vessel displaying or using a rotating, strobing, flashing, or intermittently reflecting blue light unless a duly commissioned law enforcement officer is on board.

The operator of a vessel being approached by a vessel flashing a blue light shall stop or maneuver in a way as to permit boarding, so far as possible without endangering his vessel, and not begin normal movement again until directed by the law enforcement officer or until the vessel flashing a blue light has cleared the immediate area.

The operator of a vessel approaching an area where a vessel flashing a blue light is located or patrolling shall slow his vessel to a no wake speed and shall maintain the speed until clear of the area.

A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than twenty‑five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than thirty days for each violation.”

**Time effective**

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

Ratified the 26th day of July, 2011.

Approved the 1st day of August, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_