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LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
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MEMORANDUM

To: The House Standing Committee on Agriculture

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 16, 2021

Re: SB 142, as amended by senate committee

Under current law, the operator¹ of every vessel² shall require every person 12 years of age or under to wear a U.S. coast guard-approved type I, type II or type III personal flotation device while aboard or being towed by such vessel. A life belt or ring does not satisfy the requirement.

Under SB 142, as amended by senate committee, no operator of any vessel would be allowed to operate such vessel while any person 12 years of age or under is aboard or being towed by such vessel unless the child is either: (A) wearing a U.S. coast guard-approved personal flotation device as prescribed in rules and regulations of the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism; or (B) below decks or in an enclosed cabin.

SB 142, as amended by senate committee, would take effect upon publication in the statute book.

¹ “Operator” means the person who operates or has charge of the navigation or use of a motorboat or a vessel. K.S.A. 32-1102(j).

² “Vessel” means any watercraft designed to be propelled by machinery, oars, paddles or wind action upon a sail for navigation on the water. K.S.A. 32-1102(a).