

"AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION (b) OF SECTION 4 OF ACT 453 OF 1959, AS AMENDED BY ACT 122 OF 1987, TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AFFIXING NUMBERS TO ARKANSAS BOATS, IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH U.S. COAST GUARD REGULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (b) of Section 4 of Act 453 of 1959 as amended by Act 122 of 1987, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(b) The owner, or owners, of each motorboat requiring numbering by this State shall file an application for number with the Commissioner of Revenues on forms approved by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The application shall be signed by the owner of the motorboat and shall be accompanied by a fee as hereinafter provided. Upon receipt of the application in approved form, accompanied by proof that such motorboat has been duly assessed or listed for assessment, the Commissioner of Revenues shall enter the same upon the records of his office and issue to the applicant a certificate of number stating the number awarded to the motorboat and the name and address of the owner. The owner shall procure and attach to each side of the bow of the motorboat numbers conforming to the certificate of number issued to the owner by the Commissioner of Revenues. The numbers to be procured and attached shall be at least three (3) inches in height and block character, and attached to the forward half of each side of vessel and clearly visible, pursuant to federal law and in such a manner and position on the boat as may be prescribed by rules and regulations of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in order that they may be clearly visible. These numbers shall be maintained in legible condition. The certificate of number shall be pocket size and shall be available at all times for inspection on the motorboat for which issued, whenever such motorboat is in operation. Such certificate of number shall be issued in triplicate, with the original copy to be furnished the owner of the motorboat, the duplicate to be retained as a record by the Commissioner of Revenues and the triplicate copy to be furnished to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to be retained for a period of five (5) years. In the event that an agency of the United States Government shall have in force an over-all system of identification numbering for boats covered in this Act in the United States, the numbering system required by this and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission shall be in conformity therewith."

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that confusion now exists on a large scale concerning the numbering of motorboats and non-compliance with federal law is a problem; that the clarification made by this Act is immediately needed to eliminate said confusion and any resulting harmful effects on the public peace, health, safety and welfare. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

