

**CHAPTER 168**  
**SB 317 – FINAL VERSION**

03/07/12 1020s

2012 SESSION

12-2980  
03/01

SENATE BILL        ***317***

AN ACT                relative to towable devices permitted to be towed by a motorboat.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Luther, Dist 12; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Gallus, Dist 1; Sen. Lambert,  
Dist 13; Rep. J. Belanger, Hills 5; Rep. Flanagan, Hills 5; Rep. Seidel, Hills 20

COMMITTEE:        Transportation

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows up to 6 persons to be towed on one or more inflatable tubes by a motorboat.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twelve*

AN ACT                      relative to towable devices permitted to be towed by a motorboat.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            168:1 Motorboat Towing. Amend RSA 270-D:3, III to read as follows:

2            III. No ***more than 6 persons may be towed on one or more inflatable tubes and no***  
3 more than 2 persons may be towed on water skis, aquaplanes, or other devices from the same  
4 motorboat at the same time. When [2] ***3 or more*** persons are being towed, 2 observers, in addition  
5 to the operator, shall be in the towing vessel. Such observers shall be 13 years of age or older.  
6 Notwithstanding this paragraph, more than 2 skiers may be towed if a special permit is issued by  
7 the director.

8            168:2 New Paragraph; Definitions; Inflatable Tube. Amend RSA 270-D:1 by inserting after  
9 paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

10           VI-a. “Inflatable tube” means an inflatable device manufactured and designed for the  
11 specific purpose of towing persons behind a motorboat. Such device shall be manufactured with a  
12 point of attachment for a tow line in addition to any safety handles, ropes, or lines, for each person  
13 being towed.

14           168:3 Definitions; Water Skiing. Amend RSA 270-D:1, XIII to read as follows:

15           XIII. “Water skiing” means a person being towed behind a moving motorboat on skis or on  
16 aquatic equipment designed for towing an aquaplane or any other device, including bare feet of a  
17 person, but excluding a person being towed ***on an inflatable tube or*** in another boat or motorboat.

18           168:4 Report by Department of Safety. The department of safety shall prepare a report  
19 providing statistics on accidents and injuries relating to towing of persons by motorboats and  
20 whether any discernable change in such statistics occurs after the effective date of this act. The  
21 report shall cover a multiyear period extending at least through summer 2013. The department  
22 shall submit the report to the senate and house transportation committees on or before October 30,  
23 2013.

24           168:5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

25           Approved: June 7, 2012

26           Effective Date: June 7, 2012