

SB 431 - AS INTRODUCED

2024 SESSION

24-2966

10/08

SENATE BILL

***431***

AN ACT

relative to wake surfing.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Gendreau, Dist 1; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. Rombeau, Hills. 2; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 21; Rep. Coker, Belk. 2; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4

COMMITTEE:

Transportation

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ANALYSIS

This bill adds restrictions for engaging in wake surfing on a public body of water.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four*

AN ACT relative to wake surfing.

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

1 1 Boating and Water Safety; Wake Surfing. Amend RSA 270-D:3, IV - VII to read as follows:

2 IV. Except in connection with water events and exhibitions authorized by the director, no  
3 towing of water skiers, aquaplanes or similar devices shall be conducted during the period between  
4 sunset and sunrise. In addition, no person shall [~~operate a boat engaged~~] **engage** in wake surfing  
5 during the period between sunset and sunrise.

6 V. No person shall be towed on water skis or other appurtenances unless the person is  
7 wearing a Coast Guard approved type 1, 2, or 3 PFD, except when directly participating or  
8 competing in an American Water Ski Association approved event or exhibition, authorized by a  
9 special permit issued by the director of state police.

10 VI. No person shall engage in wake surfing unless such person is wearing a Coast Guard  
11 approved PFD.

12 ***VII. No person shall engage in wake surfing on a body of water that is less than 50***  
13 ***acres in size.***

14 ***VIII. No person shall engage in wake surfing within 200 feet of a shoreline, dock,***  
15 ***pier, boathouse, or other boats or on a portion of a body of water with a width, measured***  
16 ***from the nearest shoreline to the second nearest shoreline, of less than 400 feet.***

17 [~~VII.~~] ***IX.*** No person shall operate a motorboat propelled by an outboard motor,  
18 inboard/outboard motor, or water jet while a person is wake surfing in or on the wake of such  
19 motorboat, unless the propulsion system is designed by the manufacturer for that activity.

20 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.