

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE BILL 822

Short Title: Personal Watercraft Restrictions.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Brawley.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

April 15, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SUCH AS JET SKIS AND WATER BIKES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 75A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 75A-13.2. Personal watercraft.

(a) No person shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State at any time between the hours from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. For purposes of this section, 'personal watercraft' means a small class A-1 or A-2 vessel which uses an outboard motor, or an inboard motor powering a water jet pump, as its primary source of motive power and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on, or being towed behind the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vehicle.

(b) No person shall operate a personal watercraft unless each person riding on or being towed behind such vessel is wearing a personal flotation device approved by the United States Coast Guard.

(c) A personal watercraft must at all times be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. Manuevers that unreasonably or unnecessarily endanger life, limb, or property, including

(1) Weaving through congested vessel traffic;

(2) Jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to such other vessel or when visibility around such other vessel is obstructed; and

1 (3) Swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision
2 shall constitute reckless operation of a vessel as provided in G.S. 75A-10.

3 (d) The provisions of this section do not apply to a performer engaged in a
4 professional exhibition or a person or persons engaged in an activity authorized under
5 G.S. 75A-14."

6 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 1991.