

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 76

H.P. 55

House of Representatives, February 2, 1989

Reported by Representative MITCHELL for the Special Commission on Boating pursuant to Resolve 1987, chapter 111.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act to Regulate Personal Watercraft.



1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

3 **12 MRSA §7801, sub-§30** is enacted to read:

5 30. Failure to comply with additional safety requirements
7 while operating a personal watercraft. A person is guilty of
9 failure to comply with additional safety requirements while
11 operating a personal watercraft if that person:

13 A. And any passenger are not wearing personal flotation
15 devices while operating or riding on the personal watercraft;

17 B. Operates the personal watercraft between the hours of
19 sunset and sunrise;

21 C. Operates a personal watercraft before attaining the age
23 of 16 years;

25 D. Operates a personal watercraft without having completed
27 hands-on training in the operation of a personal watercraft;

29 E. Operates a personal watercraft on any great pond less
31 than or equal to 150 acres in surface area;

33 F. Operates a personal watercraft that is louder than the
35 noise limit established for all watercraft, measured as the
37 personal watercraft strikes the water at high speed;

39 G. Operates a personal watercraft on a section of a river,
41 great pond or coastal waters that is less than 3 miles
43 across;

45 H. Operates a personal watercraft within 200 feet of
47 another watercraft, a swimmer or shore, except when leaving
49 or returning to shore;

51 I. Allows a personal watercraft which that person was
operating to remain in motion under power without an
operator; or

J. Uses a personal watercraft to tow one or more skiers,
rafts, rubber tubes or similar conveyances.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill contains the minority recommendations of the Special Commission on Boating, created by Resolve 1987, chapter 111.

This bill adds restrictions on the use of personal watercraft, such as jet skis. Personal watercraft may be used

1 only on coastal waters and on great ponds larger than 150 acres
3 in surface area, except that personal watercraft would be banned
5 on any section that is less than 3 miles across. An operator
7 must be at least 16 years old and must have completed hands-on
9 training before operating a personal watercraft. The noise level
11 should be tested at the peak sound emission, which is when the
13 personal watercraft is bouncing over the water. No operator
15 would be permitted to operate at any speed within 200 feet of any
17 other watercraft, including rafts, as well as any swimmer or the
shore, except when the operator is leaving the shore to reach the
area at least 200 feet from the shore. Within 200 feet of shore,
however, the water safety zone restrictions require that the
operator operate at no greater than headway speed within 200 feet
of shore. An operator could not allow the personal watercraft to
continue to move if no one is operating it. Personal watercraft
will not be used to tow skiers, rafts, rubber tubes or other
similar conveyances.

19 Just as for most other boating law violations, anyone who
violates this law commits a Class E crime.