

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

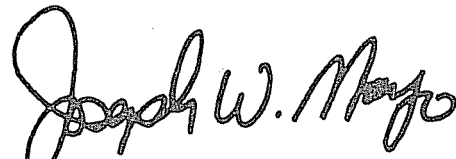
Legislative Document

No. 17

H.P. 10

House of Representatives, January 5, 1993

Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative STEVENS of Sabattus. (By Request)
Cosponsored by Representative BARTH of Bethel.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE

An Act to Prohibit the Use of Jet Skis on Great Ponds.



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

2
4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7801, sub-§30, ¶¶A to C, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 469, §4, are amended to read:

6 A. Or any passenger is not wearing ~~Coast-Guard~~ Coast Guard approved Type I or Type II personal flotation devices while
8 operating or riding on the personal watercraft;

10 B. Operates the personal watercraft during the hours
12 between sunset and sunrise; or

14 C. Operates a personal watercraft before attaining the age
16 of 12 years;

18 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7801, sub-§30, ¶¶D to G are enacted to read:

20 D. Operates a personal watercraft on any great pond less
22 than or equal to 150 acres in surface area;

24 E. Operates a personal watercraft that is louder than the
26 noise limit established for all watercraft, measured as the
28 personal watercraft strikes the water at high speed;

30 F. Operates a personal watercraft on a section of a river,
32 great pond or coastal waters that is less than 3 miles
34 across; or

36 G. Operates a personal watercraft within 200 feet of
38 another watercraft, a swimmer or shore, except when leaving
40 or returning to shore.

36 STATEMENT OF FACT

38 This bill adds restrictions on the use of personal
40 watercraft, such as jet skis. Personal watercraft may be used
42 only on coastal waters and on great ponds larger than 150 acres
44 in surface area, except that personal watercraft would be banned
46 on any section that is less than 3 miles across. The noise level
48 should be tested at the peak sound emission, which is when the
50 personal watercraft is bouncing over the water. No operator
would be permitted to operate at any speed within 200 feet of any
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.

2 Just as for most other boating law violations, any one who
violates this law commits a Class E crime.