

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 693

H.P. 462

House of Representatives, February 16, 2023

**An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and
Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an
Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RISEMAN of Harrison.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: BOYLE of Gorham, DODGE of Belfast, FAY of Raymond, HASENFUS of
Readfield, PLUECKER of Warren, RECKITT of South Portland, SUPICA of Bangor,
WARREN of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13001, sub-§27-A** is enacted to read:

3 **27-A. Wake boat.** "Wake boat" means a boat that is equipped with wake-enhancing
4 equipment. "Wake boat" includes a wake surf boat and a ballasted boat.

5 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §13001, sub-§27-B** is enacted to read:

6 **27-B. Wake-enhancing equipment.** "Wake-enhancing equipment" means ballast
7 tanks, ballast bags, compartments, containers or similar devices or mechanical systems
8 designed to alter or enhance the characteristics of a boat's wake.

9 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §13001, sub-§27-C** is enacted to read:

10 **27-C. Wake safety zone.** "Wake safety zone" means the area of water within 500 feet
11 of shoreline, whether the shoreline of the mainland or of an island, or in waters less than
12 20 feet deep.

13 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §13001, sub-§27-D** is enacted to read:

14 **27-D. Wake-surfing mode.** "Wake-surfing mode" means actively using
15 wake-enhancing equipment of a wake boat to alter the boat's wake.

16 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§16, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B,
17 §380 and affected by §422 and amended by PL 2011, c. 682, §38, is further amended by
18 amending subparagraph (21) to read:

19 (21) Operate a motorboat having more than 10 horsepower on Adams Pond, Foster
20 Pond or Otter Pond in the Town of Bridgton in Cumberland County; ~~or~~

21 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§16, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B,
22 §380 and affected by §422 and amended by PL 2011, c. 682, §38, is further amended by
23 amending subparagraph (22) to read:

24 (22) Operate a motorboat having more than 10 horsepower on Pickerel Pond in
25 the territory of T.32 MD in Hancock County; ~~;~~ or

26 **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§16, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B,
27 §380 and affected by §422 and amended by PL 2011, c. 682, §38, is further amended by
28 enacting a new subparagraph (23) to read:

29 (23) Operate a wake boat in wake-surfing mode in a wake safety zone.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill prohibits creating an enhanced wake with a boat that is equipped with
32 wake-enhancing equipment within 500 feet of the shoreline or in waters less than 20 feet
33 deep.