

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 486

Short Title: Restrict Personal Watercraft.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Holt, Brawley; and Gardner.

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Referred to: Transportation.

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March 24, 1993

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF PERSONAL  
3 WATERCRAFT SUCH AS JET SKIS AND WATER BIKES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "**§ 75A-13.2. Personal watercraft.**

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

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

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

21 (1) Weaving through congested vessel traffic;

22 (2) Jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily  
23 close to such other vessel or when visibility around such other vessel is  
24 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 December 1, 1993, and applies to acts  
7 committed on or after that date.