

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 486

SHORT TITLE: Restrict Personal Watercraft

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Holt, Brawley, and Gardner

FISCAL IMPACT: Expenditures: Increase ( ) Decrease ( )  
 Revenues: Increase ( ) Decrease ( )  
 No Impact (x )  
 No Estimate Available ( )

FUNDS AFFECTED: General Fund ( ) Highway Fund ( ) Local Fund ( )  
 Other Fund ( )

BILL SUMMARY: Adds new G.S. 75A-13.2 to prohibit person from operating personal watercraft on waters of state between hours from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. Defines "personal watercraft" as small Class A-1 or A-2 vessel that uses outboard motor, or inboard motor powering water jet pump as its primary source of motive power and designed to be operated by person sitting, standing, or kneeling on, or being towed behind vessel. Prohibits person from operating personal watercraft unless each person riding on or being towed behind vessel is wearing personal flotation device approved by Coast Guard. Requires that personal watercraft must always be operated in a reasonable or prudent manner. Provides that act does not apply to performer engaged in professional exhibition or activity authorized by GS 75A-14 (authorized regattas, races, etc.). Current GS 75A-18 would make violation of act a misdemeanor punishable by maximum \$250 fine.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1993

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Wildlife Resources Commission

FISCAL IMPACT

	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>FY</u>
EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0
RECURRING					
NON-RECURRING					
REVENUES/RECEIPTS	0	0	0	0	0
RECURRING					
NON-RECURRING					

POSITIONS: None

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The Wildlife Resources Commission currently regulates the use of personal watercraft. Personal watercraft are considered boating vessels and as such are cited for

reckless boating violations. House Bill 486 does not require additional funds since it does not add new responsibilities to the Commission. Rather, House Bill 486 is intended to more clearly define reckless boating activity for personal watercraft to ensure uniformity in enforcement.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Wildlife Resources Commission

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

**733-4910**

**PREPARED BY:** Jim Mills

**APPROVED BY:** Thomas L. Covington **TOMC**

**DATE:** April 12, 1993

**[FRD#003]**



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