

## 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 17

January 14, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER and GRONEMUS, by request of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen L. Morris. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 30.69 (1) (a); and *to create* 30.69 (1) (a) 1m.  
2             of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring persons on motorboats for the purpose  
3             of observing water skiers.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, no person may operate a motorboat to tow a water skier without having another person on board the motorboat to observe the progress of the water skier. Under this bill, an operator of a motorboat is exempt from this requirement during the months of October through April if the operator has a mirror on the boat that allows the operator to safely observe the progress of the water skier.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

4             **SECTION 1.** 30.69 (1) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 30.69 (1) (a) 1. and  
5             amended to read:

6             **30.69 (1) (a) 1.** Except as provided in ~~par. (b)~~ subd. 1m., no person may operate  
7             a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane or similar device unless there  
8             is in the boat a competent person in addition to the operator in a position to observe

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1 the progress of the person being towed. An observer shall be considered competent  
2 if that person can in fact observe the person being towed and relay any signals to the  
3 operator. This observer requirement does not apply to motorboats classified as Class  
4 A motorboats by the department actually operated by the persons being towed and  
5 so constructed as to be incapable of carrying the operator in or on the motorboat.

6 2. No person may engage in water skiing, aquaplaning or similar activity, at  
7 any time from sunset to sunrise. This restriction of the hours of water skiing does  
8 not prevent restrictions of the hours of water skiing between sunrise and sunset by  
9 local ordinances enacted pursuant to s. 30.77 (3).

10 **SECTION 2.** 30.69 (1) (a) 1m. of the statutes is created to read:

11 30.69 (1) (a) 1m. Beginning on October 1 and ending on April 30 of each year,  
12 a person may operate a motorboat towing a person on water skis, an aquaplane or  
13 a similar device without having an observer as required under subd. 1. if the  
14 motorboat is equipped with a mirror that allows the operator of the motorboat to  
15 safely observe the progress of the person being towed.

16 (END)