



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1807/1
RNK:jld

2015 SENATE BILL 180

May 27, 2015 – Introduced by Senators MOULTON, LEMAHIEU and MARKLEIN, cosponsored by Representatives KLEEFISCH, JARCHOW, KITCHENS, KNODL, KULP, MURPHY, RIPP and T. LARSON. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 30.69 (1) (a); *to amend* 30.69 (1) (b) and 30.69
2 (1) (c); and *to create* 30.69 (1) (a) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** restrictions
3 applicable to persons operating a motorboat towing a person on water skis.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, no person may operate a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane, or similar device unless a competent person, other than the operator, is in the motorboat to observe the progress of the person being towed. This bill provides that this requirement doesn't apply if the motorboat is equipped with a mirror that provides the operator with a wide field of vision to the rear.

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) (intro.) and
5 amended to read:

6 30.69 (1) (a) (intro.) Except as provided in par. (b), no person may operate a
7 motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane, or similar device unless ~~there~~
8 one of the following applies:

SENATE BILL 180**SECTION 1**

1 1. ~~There is in the boat~~ motorboat a competent person in addition to the operator
2 in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed.

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

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

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

13 30.69 (1) (a) 2. The motorboat is equipped with a mirror that provides the
14 operator with a wide field of vision to the rear.

15 **SECTION 3.** 30.69 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 30.69 (1) (b) ~~Paragraph~~ Paragraphs (a) ~~does,~~ (ag), and (am) do not apply to duly
17 authorized water ski tournaments, competitions, exhibitions, or trials therefor,
18 where adequate lighting is provided.

19 **SECTION 4.** 30.69 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 30.69 (1) (c) In addition to complying with ~~par.~~ pars. (a), (ag), and (am), no
21 person may operate a personal watercraft that is towing a person who is on water
22 skis, an aquaplane, or similar device unless the personal watercraft is designed to
23 seat at least 3 persons.

24

(END)