



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.

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.

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)