

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 1338

**SHORT TITLE:** Jackson Personal Watercraft

**SPONSOR(S):** Representatives Beall, Ramsey, and Carpenter

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes ( )</b>	<b>No (X)</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 1998-99</u></b>	<b><u>FY 1999-00</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2000-01</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2001-02</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2002-03</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					<b>No Fiscal Impact</b>
<b>POSITIONS:</b>					
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Jackson County; Wildlife Resources Commission - Wildlife Enforcement Section				
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	When it becomes law				

**BILL SUMMARY: JACKSON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT. TO AUTHORIZE JACKSON COUNTY TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT.** Allows Jackson County to adopt ordinances to regulate operation of personal watercraft on bodies of water within the county.<sup>1</sup>

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:** This bill is permissive with respect to Jackson County adopting ordinances to regulate personal watercraft use in county waters. Three primary water recreation areas exist in Jackson County; Lake Thorpe (also known as Glenville Lake), Wolf Lake, and Bear Lake. At this time Jackson County officials do not anticipate expending any local resources to implement and enforce an ordinance, if adopted. In addition, local officials

<sup>1</sup> *Daily Bulletin*, Institute of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill, Vol. 1998, No. 16.

cite the current presence of Wildlife Resources Commission officers as sufficient coverage for enforcement activities.

The Wildlife Enforcement Section in the Wildlife Resources Commission, currently provides coverage for Jackson County with two Law Enforcement Officers. These officers enforce boating registration and safety regulations, as well as protect against careless and reckless activities on county waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission indicates that personal watercraft regulation would constitute a part of their routine enforcement responsibilities on these and other water bodies in the county, and that no additional funds are necessary at this time to regulate personal watercraft use resulting from a county ordinance.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The bill provides Jackson County the flexibility to adopt personal watercraft ordinances. Subject to the language in the county ordinance, the Wildlife Resources Commission may have limited authority to enforce county laws, and could possibly require assistance from local authorities for response.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Jackson County Board of Commissioners; Wildlife Resources Commission, Wildlife Enforcement Section.

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

**733-4910**

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**DATE:** May 27 ,1998



**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**