

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS35105-MH-7

Short Title: Lake Norman Watercraft Safety. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator Sawyer (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PERSONS TOWED BEHIND A VESSEL ON LAKE NORMAN TO
3 WEAR A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE AND TO LIMIT HOURS OF TOWED
4 ACTIVITY ON LAKE NORMAN TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN SUNRISE AND
5 SUNSET.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 75A-13 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 75A-13. Water skis, surfboards, etc.**

9 (a) No person shall operate a vessel on any water of this State for towing a person or
10 persons on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device unless at least one of the persons being towed
11 wear a personal flotation device and either of the following conditions is met:

12 (1) There is in the vessel a person, in addition to the operator, in a position to
13 observe the progress of the person or persons being towed.

14 (2) ~~The persons being towed wear a personal flotation device.~~

15 (3) The vessel is equipped with a rear view ~~mirror~~ mirror capable of showing a
16 wide area behind the towing watercraft.

17 (b) No person shall operate a vessel on any water of this State towing a person or persons
18 on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device, nor shall any person engage in water skiing,
19 surfboarding, or similar activity at any time between the hours from ~~one hour after sunset to one~~
20 ~~hour before sunrise.~~

21"

22 **SECTION 2.** This act is enforceable under G.S. 75A-17 as if it were a provision of
23 Chapter 75A of the General Statutes.

24 **SECTION 3.** Violation of this act is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

25 **SECTION 4.** This act applies only to the waters of Lake Norman in Catawba, Iredell,
26 Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties.

27 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021, and applies to offenses
28 occurring on or after that date.

