

Section 1 Header

2024 SESSION

24-2480.0

10/05

HOUSE BILL *[bill number]*

AN ACT relative to regulating wakeboating and wakesports.

SPONSORS: [sponsors]

COMMITTEE: [committee]

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes prohibitions and limitations for the operation of wakeboats and their use in wakesports on public waters of the state.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four

AN ACT relative to regulating wakeboating and wakesports.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Paragraphs; Boating and Water Safety; Definitions Added. Amend RSA 270-D:1 by
2 inserting after paragraph XIII the following new paragraphs:

3 XIV. "Wakeboat" means a motorboat that has one or more ballast tanks, ballast bags, or
4 other similar devices used to enhance or increase the size of the motorboat's wake.

5 XV. "Wakesports" means:

6 (a) Using a surfboard, wakeboard, hydrofoil, or similar device to ride on or in the wake
7 directly behind a wakeboat with or without a rope, including wake surfing; or

8 (b) Operating a wakeboat with someone riding the wake directly behind the boat.

9 XVI. "Wakesports zone" means an area of a waterbody that has a minimum of 50 contiguous
10 acres that are at least 500 feet from shore on all sides and is at least 20 feet deep, located on a lake,
11 pond, or reservoir on which vessels powered by internal combustion motors are allowed and may be
12 used at speeds exceeding 5 miles per hour.

13 2 New Section; Boating and Water Safety; Wakesports. Amend RSA 270-D by inserting after
14 section 3 the following new section:

15 270-D:3-a Wakesports.

16 I. In addition to requirements in this chapter and rules adopted thereunder, the following
17 prohibitions and limitations shall apply:

18 (a) Wakesports are prohibited between sunset and sunrise.

19 (b) Wakesports are prohibited behind a vessel propulsion system that extends beyond
20 the swim platform.

21 (c) Wakesports shall not be permitted:

22 (1) On a body of water smaller than 50 contiguous acres.

23 (2) Within 500 feet of a shoreline or in-water structures.

24 (3) In waters less than 20 feet deep.

25 II. The commissioner shall develop and make publicly available wakesports zone maps of
26 legal areas on New Hampshire public waters that meet the requirements of paragraph I.

27 3 New Paragraph; Rulemaking; Wakesports. Amend RSA 270-D:8 by inserting after paragraph
28 II the following new paragraph:

29 III. Regulation of wakesports under RSA 270-D:3-a.

30 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.