

House Bill 121

By: Representatives Anderson of the 10<sup>th</sup>, Powell of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, McDonald of the 26<sup>th</sup>, Gunter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, Yeara of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to registration, operation, and sale of watercraft generally, so as to provide for  
3 restrictions and requirements regarding wakesurfing and wakeboarding, including on certain  
4 state waters; to provide for exceptions; to provide for definitions; to provide for related  
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 registration, operation, and sale of watercraft generally, is amended by revising Code  
10 Section 52-7-3, relating to definitions, by adding two new paragraphs to read as follows:

11 "(26.1) 'Wakeboarding' means the activity of:

12 (A) Being towed on a board with or without foot bindings by a motorboat across the  
13 vessel's wake; or

14 (B) Operating a motorboat in a manner that creates a wake while towing a person on  
15 a board with or without foot bindings.

16 (26.2) 'Wakesurfing' means the activity of:

- 17 (A) Surfing a motorboat's wake, regardless of whether the person is being pulled by  
18 a tow rope attached to the motorboat that is producing the wake; or  
19 (B) Operating a motorboat in a manner that creates a wake that is, or is intended to be,  
20 surfing by another person."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

23 "52-7-13.1.

24 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, no person shall engage in  
25 wakesurfing or wakeboarding on the waters of this state:

26 (1) Between sunset and sunrise;

27 (2) On a body of water that is less than 50 acres in size;

28 (3) On a portion of a body of water with a width, measured from the nearest shoreline  
29 to the second nearest shoreline, of less than 400 feet;

30 (4) Within 200 feet of a shoreline or a dock, pier, boathouse, or other structure located  
31 completely or partly on the water; or

32 (5) When surfing a wake or being towed on a board, without wearing a personal flotation  
33 device approved by the United States Coast Guard.

34 (b) This Code section shall not apply to a regatta, boat race, marine parade, tournament,  
35 or exhibition for which the commissioner has granted a marine event permit pursuant to  
36 Code Section 52-7-19."

37 **SECTION 3.**

38 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.