

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 93

(Senator Reilly)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

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Anne Arundel County - Controlled Water Ski Area in Maynadier Creek -  
Operation of Vessel - Hours of Operation

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This bill authorizes a person to operate or give permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier in a slalom ski course located in a controlled water ski area in Maynadier Creek on (1) Mondays and Thursdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.; (2) Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 8 a.m. and sunset; (3) Fridays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; or (4) Sundays between 8 a.m. and noon. A person is prohibited, however, from operating or giving permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier in a slalom ski course located in a controlled water ski area in Maynadier Creek on Saturdays or State holidays. By December 1, 2022, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the bill. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019, and terminates May 31, 2023.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** DNR can implement the bill and submit the required report with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal or none.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Controlled water ski area” means an area that (1) is marked by DNR; (2) encompasses a slalom ski course that is permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); and (3) is designed, constructed, and intended for controlled water ski practice.

**Current Law:** In order to tow a water skier behind a machinery-propelled vessel, a person must be at least age 12 and have another person who is also at least age 12 observing the progress of the water skier being towed. The person being towed must wear a personal floatation device.

DNR regulations authorize the department to designate a controlled water ski area within the waters of the State, which may contain ski slalom course(s) that meet the ski slalom requirements set by the American Water Ski Association. The following requirements and restrictions apply:

- a valid USACE permit for the area must be obtained and be on file with USACE and DNR, and the permit holder must mark the course as specified;
- a controlled water ski course may be used for practice (the regulations note that other uses may require separate approval from federal, State, or local agencies);
- the course may only be used as a ski slalom course by vessels that display a DNR ski sticker, issued by DNR to qualified controlled ski vessels;
- a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier on the slalom ski course on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays between 12 noon and sunset during the months of June, July, or August; and
- a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel across or within the permitted course, when the course is in use by a vessel that displays the required sticker and is towing a skier or assisting a fallen skier on the course.

**Background:** DNR indicates that there are currently three controlled water ski areas: two on the Severn River (Maynadier Creek and Sunrise Beach) and one on the upper South River.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 1193 of 2017, a similar bill, passed the Senate with amendments and was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 30, 2019  
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