

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 1193

(Anne Arundel County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

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

This bill authorizes a person to operate or give permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier in a ski slalom course located in a controlled water ski area in Maynadier Creek on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays between 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. A person is prohibited, however, from operating or giving permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier in a ski slalom course located in a controlled water ski area in Maynadier Creek on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays. "Controlled water ski area" means an area that is (1) marked by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); (2) encompasses a ski slalom course that is permitted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE); and (3) is designed, constructed, and intended for controlled water ski practice.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: DNR regulations authorize the department to designate a controlled water ski area within the waters of the State, which may contain a ski slalom course (or courses) that meets ski slalom requirements set by the American Water Ski Association. Restrictions and requirements applicable to the areas include the following:

- a valid USACE permit for the area must be obtained and be on file with USACE and DNR;
- 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 which 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 which 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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