

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 141 (Anne Arundel County Senators)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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

This emergency 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 (1) Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and (2) Saturdays and State holidays, between 8:00 a.m. and noon. A person is prohibited 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 Mondays, Fridays, and Sundays. “Controlled water ski area” means an area that (1) is marked by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); (2) encompasses a ski slalom 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.

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: SB 1193 of 2017 passed in the Senate 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 17, 2018
nb/lgc

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