

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 93 (Senator Reilly)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County - Controlled Water Ski Area 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 slalom ski course located in a controlled water ski area in Maynadier Creek on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between noon and sunset. 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 (1) between March 15 and June 15; (2) on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays; (3) at a speed greater than six miles per hour within 100 feet of each end of the slalom ski course; or (4) when other vessels or people in the water are entering or exiting the creek, are crossing the controlled water ski area, or are within 50 feet of the perimeter of the controlled water ski area. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Controlled water ski area” means an area that (1) is marked by the Department of Natural Resources (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.

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
mm/lgc

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