

2015 -- H 5976

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - STAFFORD POND, TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, and Canario

Date Introduced: March 25, 2015

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 46 of the General Laws entitled "WATERS AND NAVIGATION" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 27.1

4 PROHIBITION OF POWERBOATS ON STAFFORD POND, TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

5 **46-27.1-1. Legislative findings.** -- The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

6 (1) Water is vital to life and comprises an invaluable natural resource which is not to be
7 abused by any segment of the state's population or its economy. It is the policy of this state to
8 restore, enhance, and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of its waters to
9 protect public health;

10 (2) The waters of this state are a critical renewable resource which must be protected to
11 insure the availability of safe and potable drinking water for present and future needs;

12 (3) Stafford Pond in the town of Tiverton is the primary source of potable water for the
13 residents of the town of Tiverton and it is a paramount policy of the state to maintain the quality
14 of the water in Stafford Pond consistent with its use for drinking supplies and other designated
15 beneficial uses; and

16 (4) The objective of this chapter is to insure the effective and efficient conservation and
17 protection of the water supplied by Stafford Pond.

18 **46-27.1-2. Certain powerboats prohibited on Stafford Pond.** -- (a) As of July 1, 2015,

1 the use of powerboats on Stafford Pond in Tiverton, Rhode Island, by persons owning real estate
2 abutting Stafford Pond and others using the Rhode Island department of environmental
3 management boat ramp on Stafford Pond or any other access point on Stafford Pond, shall be
4 limited to powerboats with four-stroke engines of ten (10) horsepower or less.

5 (b) Any person who purchases real estate abutting Stafford Pond on or after July 1, 2015,
6 shall not have any right to operate a powerboat on Stafford Pond. After the last abutter is no
7 longer authorized to use a powerboat on Stafford Pond, all powerboat use shall be prohibited.

8 **46-27.1-3. Exceptions. --** Authorized rescue personnel and personnel of the Stone Bridge
9 Fire District, and owners and operators of the water treatment plant on Stafford Pond, while on
10 official business, may utilize powerboats on Stafford Pond, notwithstanding the provisions of §
11 46-27.1-2.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - STAFFORD POND, TIVERTON, RHODE
ISLAND

1 This act would limit the use of powerboats on Stafford Pond in Tiverton, Rhode Island,
2 as of July 1, 2015, to those with four-stroke engines of ten (10) horsepower or less. It would
3 eventually ban the use of all powerboats, except for rescue personnel and water treatment plant
4 officials.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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