



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4748/1  
ZDW:ahe

## 2017 SENATE BILL 571

November 20, 2017 - Introduced by Senators OLSEN and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives BARCA, JARCHOW, BALLWEG, BRANDTJEN, FIELDS, KRUG, MURSAU, OHNSTAD, ROHRKASTE and SPIROS. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry.

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 30.66 (3) (ar), 30.66 (3) (b) and 30.68 (5); and  
2           *to create* 30.50 (4d), 30.66 (3) (ar) 2., 30.66 (3) (b) 2. and 30.68 (5) (b) of the  
3           statutes; **relating to:** exemptions to certain boating restrictions for operators  
4           of hydro-flight devices and operators of personal watercraft that assist in  
5           powering hydro-flight devices.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill creates exemptions to certain boating restrictions for operators of hydro-flight devices and associates watercraft.

Current law prohibits a person from operating a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake or within 100 feet of any other boat. A personal watercraft is a motorboat that uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or a caged propeller as its primary source of motive power and that is designed to be operated by a person standing on, kneeling on, or sitting astride the watercraft. Slow-no-wake is the speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control. Current law also generally prohibits a person from operating any boat within 100 feet of a swimmer.

This bill provides that the restrictions on the operation of a personal watercraft at speeds exceeding slow-no-wake near a shoreline or another boat and the restrictions against operating a boat within 100 feet of a swimmer do not apply to a person operating a hydro-flight device or to a person operating a personal watercraft that is used to assist in powering the hydro-flight device. The bill defines a

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hydro-flight device as a jet powered device, attached by hose to a personal watercraft, that propels a person wearing, holding, or standing on the device into the air by the use of water forced under pressure through the hose.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 30.50 (4d) of the statutes is created to read:

2           30.50 (4d) “Hydro-flight device” means a jet powered device, attached by hose  
3 to a personal watercraft, that propels a person wearing, holding, or standing on the  
4 device into the air by the use of water forced under pressure through the hose.

5           **SECTION 2.** 30.66 (3) (ar) of the statutes is renumbered 30.66 (3) (ar) 1. and  
6 amended to read:

7           30.66 (3) (ar) 1. ~~No~~ Except as provided under subd. 2., no person may operate  
8 a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the  
9 shoreline of any lake.

10           **SECTION 3.** 30.66 (3) (ar) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

11           30.66 (3) (ar) 2. The prohibition under subd. 1. does not apply to a person  
12 operating any of the following:

13           a. A hydro-flight device.

14           b. A personal watercraft that is connected by hose to a hydro-flight device and  
15 that is supplying the water needed to operate the hydro-flight device.

16           **SECTION 4.** 30.66 (3) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 30.66 (3) (b) 1. and  
17 amended to read:

18           30.66 (3) (b) 1. ~~No~~ Except as provided under subd. 2., no person may operate  
19 a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of any  
20 other boat.

