

**AS PASSED SENATE****SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 121**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
 2 relating to registration, operation, and sale of watercraft generally, so as to provide for  
 3 restrictions and requirements relative to wakesurfing and wakeboarding in certain instances;  
 4 to provide for exceptions; to provide for definitions; to amend Title 40 of the Official Code  
 5 of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, so as to provide for a definition;  
 6 to provide for the operation of multipurpose off-highway vehicles on certain highways; to  
 7 provide for registration of such vehicles; to provide for issuance of license plates for  
 8 multipurpose off-highway vehicles; to provide for an annual licensing fee; to provide for  
 9 issuance of a certificate of title by the Department of Revenue; to provide for equipment and  
 10 operating standards for multipurpose off-highway vehicles; to provide for related matters;  
 11 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **PART I**  
 14 **SECTION 1-1.**

15 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 52 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 16 registration, operation, and sale of watercraft generally, is amended by revising Code  
 17 Section 52-7-3, relating to definitions, by adding two new paragraphs to read as follows:

18 "(26.1) 'Wakeboarding' means the activity of:

19 (A) Being towed on a board with or without foot bindings by a motorboat across the  
20 vessel's wake; or

21 (B) Operating a motorboat in a manner that creates a wake while towing a person on  
22 a board with or without foot bindings.

23 (26.2) 'Wakesurfing' means the activity of:

24 (A) Surfing a motorboat's wake, regardless of whether the person is being pulled by  
25 a tow rope attached to the motorboat that is producing the wake; or

26 (B) Operating a motorboat in a manner that creates a wake that is capable of being  
27 surfed by another person."

28 **SECTION 1-2.**

29 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

30 "52-7-13.1.

31 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, no person shall engage in  
32 wakesurfing or wakeboarding upon waters of this state:

33 (1) Between sunset and sunrise;

34 (2) Within 200 feet of any moored vessel; any wharf, dock, pier, piling, or bridge  
35 structure or abutment; or any shoreline adjacent to a full-time or part-time residence,  
36 public park, public beach, public swimming area, marina, restaurant, or other public use  
37 area; or

38 (3) When surfing a wake or being towed on a board, without wearing a personal flotation  
39 device.

40 (b) This Code section shall not apply to:

41 (1) A regatta, boat race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition for which the  
42 commissioner has granted a marine event permit pursuant to Code Section 52-7-19; or

43 (2) Intracoastal waterways, rivers, or private lakes."