

By: Representative Morris

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 399

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT A MOTORBOAT TOWING A PERSON ON WATER SKIS NEED NOT
3 BE OCCUPIED BY AN OBSERVER IF THE BOAT IS EQUIPPED WITH A
4 WIDE-ANGLE REARVIEW MIRROR POSITIONED SO AS TO ALLOW THE BOAT
5 OPERATOR TO OBSERVE THE PERSON BEING TOWED; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 SECTION 1. Section 59-21-87, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 59-21-87. No person shall operate a motorboat on any waters
11 of this state while towing a person on water skis, or on an
12 aquaplane or similar device, without an observer in the boat in
13 addition to the operator. Such observer shall be above ten years
14 of age. However, if the towing boat is equipped with a wide-angle
15 marine rearview mirror positioned so as to allow the boat operator
16 to observe the person being towed, then the requirement for an
17 observer shall not apply.

18 The provisions of the first paragraph of this section do not
19 apply to a person engaged in a professional exhibition or a person
20 participating in an official regatta, motorboat race, marine
21 parade, tournament or exhibition.

22 No person shall operate or manipulate any motorboat, tow rope
23 or other device by which the direction or location of water skis,
24 aquaplane, or similar device may be affected or controlled in such
25 a way as to cause the water skis, aquaplane, or similar device, or
26 any person thereon to collide or strike against any object or
27 person, except slalom buoys, ski jumps or like objects used
28 normally in competitive or recreational skiing.

29 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
30 and after July 1, 1999.