

By: Compretta, Dedeaux

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 1496

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION THAT RESTRICTS THE
2 OPERATION OF UNMUFFLED AIRBOATS, PROVIDES THAT MUFFLED AIRBOATS
3 CAN ONLY BE OPERATED IN COMMON AREAS AND PROHIBITS CERTAIN BOATS
4 FROM BEING OPERATED IN COASTAL PRESERVES; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to
8 operate an unmuffled airboat producing sounds that can be heard
9 five hundred (500) feet or more from the shore on any of the
10 waters of this state, unless being operated to request emergency
11 assistance or to warn of a hazardous situation.

12 (2) A muffled airboat that is producing sounds that can be
13 heard three hundred (300) feet or more from the shore can only
14 operate in the common areas of this state.

15 (3) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate airboats,
16 aircraft, personal water craft, hover craft or marsh buggies on
17 any publicly owned and managed vegetated wetlands inside the
18 coastal preserves.

19 (4) As used in this section, the following terms shall have
20 the meanings ascribed in this subsection:

21 (a) "Common areas" mean navigable waters of this state.

22 (b) "Operate" means to navigate or otherwise use a
23 motorboat or vessel.

24 (c) "Waters of this state" mean any waters within the
25 territorial limits of this state and the marginal sea adjacent to
26 this state and the high seas when navigated as a part of a journey
27 or ride to or from the shore of the state; however, "waters of

28 this state" does not mean any private pond or lake which is not
29 used for boat rentals or the charging of fees for fishing therein.

30 (d) "Personal water craft" means a vessel having an
31 inboard motor that powers a water jet pump as the primary source
32 of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting,
33 standing, kneeling on, or being towed behind the vessel.

34 (5) A person violating this section is guilty of a
35 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of
36 not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five
37 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

38 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act shall be codified in
39 Chapter 27, Title 49, Mississippi Code of 1972.

40 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
41 and after July 1, 2000.