

By: Senator(s) Sojourner

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
ParksSENATE BILL NO. 2787  
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO ALLOW WATER SKIING WITHOUT AN OBSERVER IN THE BOAT IF THE BOAT  
3 IS EQUIPPED WITH CERTAIN MIRRORS; TO PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF A  
4 MOTORBOAT ON WATERS OF THIS STATE WHILE TOWING A PERSON ON WATER  
5 SKIS, OR ON AN AQUAPLANE OR SIMILAR DEVICE; TO EXEMPT WAKEBOARDING  
6 FROM THIS PROHIBITION; TO REQUIRE SKIERS TO WEAR A PERSONAL  
7 FLOTATION DEVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 59-21-87. (1) No person shall operate a motorboat on any  
12 waters of this state while towing a person on water skis, or on an  
13 aquaplane or similar device, \* \* \* between one (1) hour after  
14 sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise. This prohibition shall  
15 not apply to wakesurfing, when the person being towed is on an  
16 aquaplane or similar device following the boat at a distance no  
17 greater than twelve (12) feet, and the boat is operating its  
18 lights and traveling at a speed no greater than ten (10) miles per  
19 hour.

20 \* \* \*





21       (2) Each person being towed behind a vessel on water skis or  
22 similar devices must wear a properly secured Type I, II, III or V  
23 U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.

24       (3) Every vessel, except personal watercraft, towing a  
25 person on water skis or similar device must have:

26           (a) A capable observer, other than the operator, ten  
27 (10) years old or older, or

28           (b) A wide-angle rearview mirror. The size of the  
29 mirror must be at least seventy-eight (78) square inches and have  
30 a field of vision of at least one hundred seventy (170) degrees.

31       (4) Every personal watercraft towing a person on water skis  
32 or a similar device must have mirrors mounted on both the right  
33 and left sides of the personal watercraft but not attached to the  
34 steering control and the mirrors must be at least two and one-half  
35 (2-1/2) inches high and four (4) inches wide.

36       (5) A reasonable distance from other vessels, people and  
37 property must be maintained so as not to endanger life or  
38 property. It is illegal to tow a person on water skis or similar  
39 devices behind a vessel or to manipulate the water skis or similar  
40 devices in a manner that causes the towed person to collide with  
41 another person or object.

42       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
43 and after July 1, 2021.

