

By: Senator(s) Sojourner

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2498

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 REQUIRE SKIERS TO WEAR A
4 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 59-21-87. (1) No person shall operate a motorboat on any
9 waters of this state while towing a person on water skis, or on an
10 aquaplane or similar device, * * * between one (1) hour after
11 sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise.

12 * * *

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

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

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



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

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

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

34 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
35 and after July 1, 2022.

