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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 3770

02/26/2020 Authored by Koegel, Heintzeman and Poston
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; regulating wake surfing on waters of this state;
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, sections 86B.005, by adding subdivisions;
1.4 86B.315, subdivision 1, by adding subdivisions.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 86B.005, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 17a. Wake surfer. "Wake surfer" means a person who wake surfs.

1.9 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 86B.005, is amended by adding a subdivision to
1.10 read:

1.11 Subd. 17b. Wake surf. "Wake surf" means:

1.12 (1) to surf a wake, regardless of whether the surfer is being pulled by a tow rope attached
1.13 to the watercraft that is producing the wake; or

1.14 (2) to operate a boat that creates a wake that is, or is intended to be, surfed by another
1.15 person.

1.16 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 86B.315, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.17 Subdivision 1. Observer or mirror required. A person may not wake surf on waters
1.18 of this state or operate a watercraft on waters of this state and create a wake for a wake
1.19 surfer or tow while towing a person on water skis, an aquaplane, a surfboard, a saucer, or
1.20 a similar device unless:

2.1 (1) there is another person in the watercraft in addition to the operator who is in a position
2.2 to continually observe the person being towed; or

2.3 (2) the boat is equipped with a mirror providing the operator a wide field of vision to
2.4 the rear.

2.5 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 86B.315, is amended by adding a subdivision to
2.6 read:

2.7 Subd. 3. **Distance from shore.** On waters of this state, a person may not wake surf at
2.8 greater than slow-no wake speed within 200 feet of a:

2.9 (1) shoreline;

2.10 (2) dock;

2.11 (3) swimmer;

2.12 (4) raft used for swimming or diving; or

2.13 (5) moored, anchored, or nonmotorized watercraft.

2.14 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 86B.315, is amended by adding a subdivision to
2.15 read:

2.16 Subd. 4. **Requirements for wake surfing.** A person may not wake surf unless the
2.17 watercraft used to wake surf is powered with a propeller that is forward of the watercraft's
2.18 transom or swim platform or powered by a jet drive.