

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

**S.F. No. 4461**

(SENATE AUTHORS: ANDERSON)

DATE  
04/05/2022

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OFFICIAL STATUS  
Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to natural resources; modifying personal watercraft operation requirements;
- 1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 86B.313, subdivision 1.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 86B.313, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- 1.6 Subdivision 1. **General requirements.** (a) In addition to requirements of other laws
- 1.7 relating to watercraft, a person may not operate or permit the operation of a personal
- 1.8 watercraft:
- 1.9 (1) without each person on board the personal watercraft wearing a wearable personal
- 1.10 flotation device that is approved by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and has a USCG
- 1.11 label indicating the flotation device either is approved for or does not prohibit use with
- 1.12 personal watercraft;
- 1.13 ~~(2) between one hour before sunset and 9:30 a.m.;~~
- 1.14 ~~(3)~~ (2) at greater than slow-no wake speed within 150 feet of:
- 1.15 (i) a shoreline;
- 1.16 (ii) a dock;
- 1.17 (iii) a swimmer;
- 1.18 (iv) a raft used for swimming or diving; or
- 1.19 (v) a moored, anchored, or nonmotorized watercraft;

- 2.1 ~~(4)~~ (3) while towing a person on water skis, a kneeboard, an inflatable craft, or any other  
2.2 device unless:
- 2.3 (i) an observer is on board; or
- 2.4 (ii) the personal watercraft is equipped with factory-installed or factory-specified  
2.5 accessory mirrors that give the operator a wide field of vision to the rear;
- 2.6 ~~(5)~~ (4) without the lanyard-type engine cutoff switch being attached to the person,  
2.7 clothing, or personal flotation device of the operator, if the personal watercraft is equipped  
2.8 by the manufacturer with such a device;
- 2.9 ~~(6)~~ (5) if any part of the spring-loaded throttle mechanism has been removed, altered,  
2.10 or tampered with so as to interfere with the return-to-idle system;
- 2.11 ~~(7)~~ (6) to chase or harass wildlife;
- 2.12 ~~(8)~~ (7) through emergent or floating vegetation at other than a slow-no wake speed;
- 2.13 ~~(9)~~ (8) in a manner that unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb, or property,  
2.14 including weaving through congested watercraft traffic, jumping the wake of another  
2.15 watercraft within 150 feet of the other watercraft, or operating the watercraft while facing  
2.16 backward;
- 2.17 ~~(10)~~ (9) in any other manner that is not reasonable and prudent; or
- 2.18 ~~(11)~~ (10) without a personal watercraft rules decal, issued by the commissioner, attached  
2.19 to the personal watercraft so as to be in full view of the operator.
- 2.20 (b) Paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2), does not apply to a person operating a personal watercraft  
2.21 to launch or land a person on water skis, a kneeboard, or similar device by the most direct  
2.22 route to open water.