

ASSEMBLY, No. 1498

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes certain exceptions for emergency personnel operating personal watercraft while providing rescue services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning personal watercrafts and amending P.L.1993,
2 c.299.

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4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.299 (C.12:7-63) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 2. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft:

10 a. On the waters of this State between sunset and sunrise, or
11 during any time of restricted visibility as determined by an agent or
12 officer of the Marine [Law Enforcement] Service Bureau, Division
13 of State Police;

14 b. Within the confines of the Point Pleasant Canal in the
15 County of Ocean, or the Cape May Canal in the County of Cape
16 May;

17 c. Above minimum headway speed within 100 feet of:

18 (1) Buoys or signs that mark the boundaries of a swimming
19 area;

20 (2) The shoreline;

21 (3) Any person in the water; or

22 (4) Residential dwelling units; or

23 d. In such a manner as to make the vessel completely leave the
24 water or otherwise become airborne within 100 feet of another
25 vessel.

26 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any of the
27 following persons while in actual performance of their official
28 duties: a law enforcement officer, a member of a paid, part paid, or
29 volunteer fire department, a member of a State, county, or
30 municipal beach patrol, or a person trained and certified or licensed
31 to provide emergency medical care, whether on a paid or volunteer
32 basis.

33 (cf: P.L.2009, c.108, s.1)

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill affords emergency personnel certain exceptions under
41 the law while operating a personal water craft, often referred to as a
42 jet ski, in performance of official duties. Under current law, jet ski
43 operators are prohibited from exceeding minimum headway speed
44 within 100 feet of the shoreline, buoys or signs that mark the
45 boundaries of a swimming area, any person in the water, or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 residential dwelling units. Jet ski operators are also prohibited from
2 operating the vessel in manner that makes it airborne within 100
3 feet of another vessel.

4 This bill waives these requirements for any law enforcement
5 officer, a member of a fire department, a member of a State, county
6 or municipal beach patrol, or emergency medical services personnel
7 who are operating a jet ski while in actual performance of their
8 official duties.