

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 11-90—HB 5300

Environment Committee

Transportation Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SPEED LIMITS OF BOATS ON THE
MYSTIC RIVER**

SUMMARY: This act repeals the law regarding the speed of vessels on specified rivers, including related penalties, thereby allowing vessel speed limits to be regulated under Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) boating safety regulations.

The act establishes a “slow-no-wake zone” on two portions of the Mystic River. It makes a violation of the zone an infraction and requires the DEP commissioner to administer the provision. It authorizes various people to enforce the slow-no-wake zone, including harbor masters, deputy harbor masters, conservation officers, police officers, town marine officers certified for marine police duty, and lake patrolmen.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MYSTIC RIVER SLOW-NO-WAKE ZONE

The act prohibits people from operating vessels in excess of “slow-no-wake” on the Mystic River within the following two areas: (1) between the entrance to the Mystic Harbor and Red Navigation Marker No. 22, excluding Beebe Cove, where the entrance to Mystic Harbor is a line beginning at the southernmost tip of Mouse Island, then east to Red Navigation Buoy “4,” known as Whale Rock, then generally northeasterly to Green Navigation Buoy “9” to the northern tip of Ram Island and to the southernmost tip of Mason Point, and (2) from Red Navigation Buoy “26” northward to Green Navigation Buoy “53.”

“Slow-no-wake” is defined in DEP boating safety regulations. It means that a vessel must not (1) produce more than a minimum wake and (2) attain speeds greater than six miles per hour over the ground unless a higher minimum speed is necessary to maintain steerageway when traveling with a strong current. In no case can the wake produced by the vessel be such that it creates a danger of injury to people or damage to vessels or structures (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 15-121-A1(j)).

OLR Tracking: JLK:RP:PF:ts