



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 5198

LCO No. 2523

02523HB05198ENV

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING NO-WAKE ZONES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 15-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Governor shall appoint a harbor master, and may appoint a
4 deputy harbor master, for each of the harbors of New Haven, Norwich,
5 Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk, Stonington, New London and
6 Branford, and may appoint a suitable number of harbor masters and
7 deputy harbor masters in any town in this state which has navigable
8 waters within its limits, provided the appointment of a harbor master
9 or deputy harbor master for the harbor of any municipality which has
10 adopted a harbor management plan, pursuant to chapter 444a, shall be
11 made by the Governor from a list of not less than three nominees
12 submitted by the municipality's harbor management commission.
13 Appointments shall be for terms of three years from July first in the
14 year of the appointment and until a successor is appointed and
15 qualified except the term of office of any person appointed before or
16 after July first in any year to a newly created office of harbor master or

17 deputy harbor master shall begin on the day of the appointment and
18 expire on July first next succeeding the completion of the person's
19 third full year in office. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for
20 the remainder of the term of the original appointee and until a
21 successor is appointed and qualified. Harbor masters shall have the
22 general care and supervision of the harbors and navigable waterways
23 over which they have jurisdiction, subject to the direction and control
24 of the Commissioner of Transportation, and shall be responsible to the
25 commissioner for the safe and efficient operation of such harbors and
26 navigable waterways in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
27 A harbor master appointed pursuant to this section may cite an
28 operator of a vessel for operating a vessel at a speed in excess of slow-
29 no-wake, as defined in section 15-154. Any such citation shall result in
30 a fine of not more than fifty dollars. Any harbor master appointed
31 pursuant to this section may cite an operator for any violation of
32 section 2 of this act. The harbor masters or deputy harbor masters shall
33 exercise their duties in a manner consistent with any harbor
34 management plan adopted pursuant to section 22a-113m for a harbor
35 over which they have jurisdiction. The commissioner may delegate any
36 of his powers and duties under this chapter to such harbor masters or
37 to any existing board of harbor commissioners, but shall at all times be
38 vested with responsibility for the overall supervision of the harbors
39 and navigable waterways of the state.

40 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No person shall operate a
41 vessel, as defined in section 15-127 of the general statutes, in a slow-no-
42 wake zone and cause a smaller vessel to capsize as the result of such
43 operation or cause another person to be injured as the result of such
44 operation. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall
45 be cited for an infraction and have his or her safe boating certificate or
46 certificate of personal watercraft operation suspended by the
47 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for a period of
48 not less than thirty days.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	15-1
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce land erosion that results from wakes created by irresponsibly operated vessels and to protect responsible operators of marine vessels.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. MILLER L., 122nd Dist.

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