

H. B. 2171

(By Delegate Rodighiero)

[Introduced January 21, 2015; referred to the

Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources then the Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §20-7-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to rules governing the operation of motorboats on lakes; authorizing the use of motors exceeding nine horsepower; and providing the conditions that must be met.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §20-7-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 7. LAW ENFORCEMENT, MOTORBOATING, LITTER.**§20-7-22. General rules and regulations for motorboating; special rules.**

The director is hereby authorized and empowered to may prescribe and to enforce:

(a) General rules and regulations to be observed in the operation or navigation of motorboats upon, over or through the waters of this state which he or she shall deem determines necessary for the public health or safety of persons or property on or in such waters, or for the preservation of all forms of useful aquatic life, particularly as to speed, running, lights, signals, courses, channels,

1 rights-of-way, and the disposal of oil, gas, gasoline or other wastes from such boats;

2 (b) Special rules ~~and regulations~~ for such particular, artificial or natural areas of water, for
3 further limiting, restricting or prohibiting the operation or navigation of motorboats thereon to
4 protect the public health or to protect and preserve useful aquatic life.

5 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, rule or local rule to the contrary, the
6 director shall prescribe rules permitting the use of motors on motorboats that are larger than nine
7 horsepower to be used on lakes in the state, if they are otherwise operating according to navigation
8 rules, including operating at a slow or no-wake speed within one hundred feet of an anchored or
9 moored vessel, shoreline, dock, pier, swim float, marked swim areas, swimmers, surfers, persons
10 engaged in angling, any manually powered vessel or personal watercraft.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the use of motors exceeding nine horsepower in the operation of motorboats on lakes. The bill provides the conditions that must be met.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.