

HOUSE BILL No. 1423

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 14-8-2; IC 14-15.

Synopsis: Wake boarding and wake surfing. Specifies restrictions that apply to wake boarding or wake surfing on a public freshwater lake. Establishes a penalty. Specifies restrictions that apply to wake boarding or wake surfing on a small lake. Prohibits operation of a motorboat with: (1) an outboard motor; or (2) an outdrive unit; with a propeller that extends past the motorboat's transom, swim platform, boarding platform, swim step, or swim ladder for the purpose of wake surfing.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Abbott

January 13, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1423

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-8-2-222 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 222. "Public freshwater
3 lake", for purposes of **IC 14-15-3 and IC 14-26-2**, has the meaning set
4 forth in IC 14-26-2-3.

5 SECTION 2. IC 14-8-2-301.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
6 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
7 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 301.1. "Wake boarding" means**
8 **to:**

- 9 (1) use a short board with or without foot bindings on which
10 a rider is towed by a motorboat across a wake; or
- 11 (2) operate a motorboat that creates a wake and that tows or
12 is intended to tow a person who uses a short board with or
13 without foot bindings on which the person is towed by the
14 motorboat across the motorboat's wake.

15 SECTION 3. IC 14-8-2-301.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
16 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
17 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 301.4. "Wake surfing" means to:**



1 **(1) surf a wake, regardless of whether the person is being**
 2 **pulled by a tow rope attached to the motorboat that is**
 3 **producing the wake; or**

4 **(2) operate a motorboat that creates a wake that is or is**
 5 **intended to be surfed by another person.**

6 SECTION 4. IC 14-15-3-8.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
 7 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
 8 1, 2025]: **Sec. 8.1. An individual shall not operate a motorboat on**
 9 **a public freshwater lake for the purpose of wake boarding or wake**
 10 **surfing during the period between sunset and sunrise.**

11 SECTION 5. IC 14-15-3-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 12 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 10. (a)** Subject to
 13 section 11 of this chapter, a person may not operate a motorboat upon
 14 a small lake at a speed greater than ten (10) miles per hour.

15 **(b) An individual may not operate a motorboat upon a small**
 16 **lake while engaging in wake boarding or wake surfing unless it is**
 17 **during the time and day of a speed exemption granted for the small**
 18 **lake under section 11 of this chapter.**

19 SECTION 6. IC 14-15-3-11.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 20 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 21 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 11.1. A rule adopted under**
 22 **section 11 of this chapter before July 1, 2025, applies to wake**
 23 **boarding and wake surfing.**

24 SECTION 7. IC 14-15-3-31, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2014,
 25 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 26 JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 31. (a)** A person who violates section 2, 3, 5, 7, 8,
 27 **8.1, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, or 30** of this
 28 chapter commits a Class C infraction.

29 **(b)** A person who knowingly or intentionally violates section 6 of
 30 this chapter commits a Class C misdemeanor.

31 SECTION 8. IC 14-15-13-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.164-2020,
 32 SECTION 52, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 33 JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 3.** An individual may not do the following:

34 **(1)** Operate a motorboat inboard or have the inboard engine of a
 35 motorboat run idle while an individual is holding onto the swim
 36 platform, swim deck, swim step, swim ladder or any part of the
 37 exterior of the transom of a motorboat while the motorboat is
 38 underway at any speed.

39 **(2)** Operate a motorboat powered by an outboard motor or
 40 equipped with an outdrive unit while an individual is:

41 **(A)** holding onto the swim platform, swim deck, swim step,
 42 swim ladder or any portion of the exterior of the transom of a



- 1 motorboat while the motorboat is underway at any speed; or
2 (B) swimming, or floating on or in the wake directly behind a
3 motorboat that is underway.
- 4 (3) Operate a motorboat with the number of individual riders on
5 a towed device that exceeds the listed capacity on the towed
6 device or the owner's manual.
- 7 **(4) Operate a motorboat with an outdrive unit or outboard**
8 **motor with a propeller that extends past the motorboat's:**
9 **(A) transom;**
10 **(B) swim platform;**
11 **(C) boarding platform;**
12 **(D) swim step; or**
13 **(E) swim ladder;**
14 **for the purpose of wake surfing.**

