

HOUSE No. 2256

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to jet skis, surf jets, wet bikes, and other personal watercraft in municipalities..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 90B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Personal flotation
3 devices” the following definition:—“Personal watercraft”, a vessel, by whatever name, propelled
4 by water jet or other machinery as its principal source of motor propulsion which is designed to
5 travel over water and to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel rather
6 than being operated in the conventional manner by a person sitting or standing inside the vessel,
7 including but not limited to jet skis, surf jets and wet bikes.

8 SECTION 2. Paragraph (n) of the fourth paragraph of section 11 of said chapter 90B, as
9 so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “town”, in line 90, the following:—
10 except as provided in section 15A.

11 SECTION 3. Said chapter 90B is hereby further amended by inserting after section 15 the
12 following section:—Section 15A. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (n) of the
13 fourth paragraph of Section 11 of Chapter 90B and Section 45 of Chapter 131 or any other
14 general or special law to the contrary, any city or town may make and enforce rules and

15 regulations relative to the use of jet skis, surf jets, wet bikes, or other personal watercraft, as
16 defined in Section 1 of said Chapter 90B, on any pond or lake not to exceed 750 acres in which
17 the whole or any portion of such pond or lake is located within its boundaries. Such rules and
18 regulations may include a total ban on the use of jet skis, surf jets, wet bikes, or other personal
19 watercraft, as defined in Section 1 of said Chapter 90B. Where a pond or lake lies within the
20 boundaries of more than one municipality, a single municipality may apply such rules and
21 regulations to that portion of the pond or lake that lies within its boundaries without the
22 agreement of any other municipality. Rules and regulations adopted pursuant to authority of this
23 section do not require the approval of the director of law enforcement of the department of
24 fisheries, wildlife and environmental law enforcement. Any rules or regulations adopted pursuant
25 to the authority of this section shall not be valid unless published in a newspaper of general
26 distribution in said city or town not less than five days before the effective date thereof. (b) Any
27 city or town that adopts rules or regulations relative to the use of jet skis, surf jets, wet bikes, or
28 other personal watercraft, as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 90B, shall construct signs bearing
29 such rules and regulations as may be adopted, and such signs shall be conspicuously placed
30 facing the water on the shore near each boundary.

31 SECTION 4. Section 45 of Chapter 131 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998
32 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “enforcement”, in line 26, the
33 following:—except as provided in Section 15A of Chapter 90B.