

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred
3 Senate Bill No. 224 entitled “An act relating to the management of the State’s
4 lakes” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that
5 the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * **Wakeboats; Use of Waters; Registration** * * *

8 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1422 is amended to read:

9 § 1422. DEFINITIONS

10 In this chapter, ~~unless the context clearly requires otherwise:~~

11 (1) “Agency” means the Agency of Natural Resources.

12 * * *

13 (3) “Department” means Department of Environmental Conservation.

14 (4) “Navigable water” or “navigable waters” means Lake Champlain,
15 Lake Memphremagog, the Connecticut River, all natural inland lakes within
16 Vermont, and all streams, ponds, flowages, and other waters within the
17 territorial limits of Vermont, including the Vermont portion of boundary
18 waters, that are boatable under the laws of this State.

19 * * *

1 (22) “Motorboat” has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 3302.

2 (23) “Wakeboat” means a motorboat that has one or more ballast tanks,
3 ballast bags, or other devices or design features used to increase the size of the
4 motorboat’s wake.

5 (24) “Wakesports” means:

6 (A) to operate a wakeboat with ballast tanks, bags, or other devices or
7 design features engaged to increase the size of the wakeboat’s wake; or

8 (B) to use a surfboard, wakeboard, hydrofoil, or similar device to ride
9 on or in the wake:

10 (i) directly behind a wakeboat without a rope; or

11 (ii) directly behind a wakeboat with or without a rope, when the
12 wakeboat has ballast tanks, bags, or other devices or design features engaged
13 as specified in the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Vermont Use
14 of Public Waters Rules.

15 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1424b is added to read:

16 § 1424b. WAKESPORTS; USE OF WATERS

17 (a) A person shall engage in wakesports only on a lake authorized by the
18 Agency under the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Vermont Use
19 of Public Waters Rules and only in that area of the lake identified for use for
20 wakesports.

1 (b)(1) Prior to a wakeboat entering a lake in the State, the owner or
2 operator of the wakeboat shall clean and decontaminate the wakeboat as
3 required under the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Vermont Use
4 of Public Waters Rules.

5 (2) The Secretary shall issue guidance for private entities,
6 municipalities, and lake associations regarding the appropriate siting and
7 operation of aquatic nuisance inspection stations, including how to conduct the
8 cleaning and decontamination of vessels required under this chapter, chapter
9 50 of this title, or rule.

10 (3) The Secretary shall assess locations in the State where aquatic
11 nuisance inspection stations would best be sited to provide the cleaning and
12 decontamination of vessels required under this chapter, chapter 50 of this title,
13 or rule. Once locations are identified, the Secretary shall attempt to identify
14 private entities, municipalities, or lake associations in proximity to the
15 identified locations in order to encourage operation of aquatic nuisance
16 inspection stations that can conduct the cleaning and contamination of vessels
17 required under this chapter, chapter 50 of this title, or rule.

18 (c) A person staffing an aquatic nuisance species inspection station is
19 authorized to inform a person who owns or controls a wakeboat whether and
20 where wakesports are authorized on a lake. Information provided by a person

1 staffing an aquatic nuisance species inspection station shall not be considered
2 an exercise of law enforcement authority.

3 (d) Pursuant to 4 V.S.A. § 1102, a violation of this section may be brought
4 in the Judicial Bureau by any law enforcement officer, as that term is defined
5 in 23 V.S.A. § 3302(3), or, pursuant to section 8007 or 8008 of this title, a
6 violation of this section may be brought in the Environmental Division of the
7 Superior Court. If a violation of this section is adjudicated in the Judicial
8 Bureau or the Environmental Division, the violation shall not be addressed or
9 adjudicated a second time in the other court.

10 Sec. 3. 4 V.S.A. § 1102(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

12 * * *

13 (19) Violations of 10 V.S.A. § 1424b or rules adopted under 10 V.S.A.
14 § 1424, relating to the use of public waters.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 1453 is amended to read:

17 § 1453. AQUATIC NUISANCE CONTROL PROGRAM

18 (a) The Agency of Natural Resources shall establish and maintain an
19 aquatic nuisance control program.

20 (b) The aquatic nuisance control program shall perform the following
21 services:

- 1 (1) receive and respond to aquatic nuisance complaints;
- 2 (2) work with municipalities, local interest organizations, private
3 individuals, and agencies of the state to develop long-range programs
4 regarding aquatic nuisance controls;
- 5 (3) work with federal, state, and local governments to obtain funding for
6 aquatic nuisance control programs;
- 7 (4) implement an aquatic species rapid response program under this
8 chapter;
- 9 (5) administer a grant-in-aid program under section 1458 of this title;
- 10 (6) place a sign at least two feet by two feet in size that states that the
11 water is infected with an aquatic nuisance and that a person transporting the
12 nuisance in violation of section 1454 of this title may be subject to a penalty of
13 up to \$1,000.00 pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 3317, so that the sign is easily visible
14 from a ramp used to launch vessels at any fish and wildlife access area on a
15 body of water infected with an aquatic nuisance;
- 16 (7) include on any signage posted under this section the requirements
17 under statute or rule for the cleaning and decontamination of vessels; and
- 18 ~~(7)~~(8) provide the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and the
19 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles with written educational information about
20 aquatic nuisances that can be included in an envelope containing a boat

1 registration and in a Department of Fish and Wildlife publication pertaining to
2 fishing and boating.

3 Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1454(d) is amended to read:

4 (d) Draining of vessel; transport.

5 (1)(A) ~~When~~ Immediately before or immediately after leaving a water
6 of the State and prior to transport away from the area where the vessel left the
7 water, a person operating a vessel shall drain the vessel, trailer, and other
8 equipment of water, including water in live wells, ballast tanks, and bilge
9 areas. A person is not required to drain:

10 (i) baitboxes when authorized under 10 App. V.S.A. § 122(5) to
11 transport bait in a baitbox away from a water; or

12 (ii) vehicles and trailers specifically designed and used for water
13 hauling.

14 (B) A person operating a vessel shall drain the vessel, trailer, and
15 other equipment of water in a manner to avoid a discharge to the water of the
16 State. This subdivision (d)(1) does not authorize a person to discharge waste,
17 as defined in section 1251 of this title, to waters of the State. A person shall
18 dispose of waste in the manner required by law.

19 (2) When a person transports a vessel, the person shall remove or open
20 the drain plugs, bailers, valves, and other devices that are used to control the
21 draining of water from ballast tanks, bilge areas, and live wells of the vessel,

1 trailer, and other equipment, except for vehicles and trailers specifically
2 designed and used for water hauling and emergency response vehicles and
3 equipment.

4 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 3305 is amended to read:

5 § 3305. FEES; REGISTRATION

6 (a) An individual shall not operate a motorboat on the public waters of this
7 State unless the motorboat has a valid marine document issued by U.S.
8 Customs and Border Protection or any successor federal agency or is registered
9 in accordance with this chapter.

10 (b) Annually or biennially, the owner of each motorboat required to be
11 registered by this State shall file an application for a number with the
12 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles on forms approved by ~~him or her~~ the
13 Commissioner. The application shall be signed by the owner of the motorboat
14 and shall be accompanied by an annual fee of \$31.00, or a biennial fee of
15 \$57.00, for a motorboat in class A; by an annual fee of \$49.00, or a biennial
16 fee of \$93.00, for a motorboat in class 1; by an annual fee of \$80.00, or a
17 biennial fee of \$155.00, for a motorboat in class 2; or by an annual fee of
18 \$153.00, or a biennial fee of \$303.00, for a motorboat in class 3. Upon receipt
19 of the application in approved form, the Commissioner shall enter the
20 application upon the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles and issue to
21 the applicant a registration certificate stating the number awarded to the

1 motorboat and the name and address of the owner. The owner shall paint on or
2 attach to each side of the bow of the motorboat the identification number in
3 such manner as may be prescribed by rules of the Commissioner in order that it
4 may be clearly visible. The registration shall be void one year from the first
5 day of the month following the month of issue in the case of annual
6 registrations or void two years from the first day of the month following the
7 month of issue in the case of biennial registrations. A motorboat of less than
8 10 horsepower used as a tender to a registered motorboat shall be deemed
9 registered, at no additional cost, and shall have painted or attached to both
10 sides of the bow the same registration number as the registered motorboat with
11 the number “1” after the number. The number shall be maintained in legible
12 condition. The registration certificate shall be pocket size and shall be
13 available at all times for inspection on the motorboat for which issued,
14 whenever the motorboat is in operation. A duplicate registration may be
15 obtained upon payment of a fee of \$3.00 to the Commissioner. Registration
16 fees shall be allocated in accordance with section 3319 of this title.

17 * * *

18 (d)(1) Registration of a motorboat ends when the owner transfers title to
19 another. The former owner shall immediately return directly to the
20 Commissioner the registration certificate previously assigned to the transferred

1 motorboat with the date of sale and the name and residence of the new owner
2 endorsed on the back of the certificate.

3 (2) When a person transfers the ownership of a registered motorboat to
4 another, files a new application, and pays a fee of \$6.00, ~~he or she~~ the person
5 may have registered in his or her name another motorboat of the same class for
6 the remainder of the registration period without payment of any additional
7 registration fee. However, if the fee for the registration of the motorboat
8 sought to be registered is greater than the registration fee for the transferred
9 motorboat, the applicant shall pay the difference between the fee first paid and
10 the fee for the class motorboat sought to be registered.

11 * * *

12 (k)(1) The application forms that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
13 provides for the registration of vessels under subsection (b) of this section shall
14 include a checkbox for an owner to designate a motorboat as a wakeboat.

15 (2) If the owner designates a motorboat a wakeboat, the owner shall
16 designate the home lake of the wakeboat on the application form.

17 (3) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles annually shall compile the
18 number of motorboats registered as wakeboats and the home lake designations
19 of wakeboats and annually shall submit the compiled information to the
20 Secretary of Natural Resources.

1 under 10 V.S.A. § 1424b that wakesports shall only be conducted on a lake
2 where wakesports are authorized and that wakeboats may require
3 decontamination according to the Department of Environmental
4 Conservation’s Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules prior to entry to a lake.

5 To fulfill the education and outreach requirements of this section:

6 (1) when the Agency of Natural Resources is posting signage or
7 replacing signage at a State fishing access area or other known public point of
8 access to a lake or pond in the State, the Agency shall include information on
9 the signage regarding the requirements for conducting wakesports on the lake
10 and for the cleaning and decontamination of vessels;

11 (2) the Agency of Natural Resources shall include a notification
12 regarding the requirements for conducting wakesports on lakes in the State and
13 for the cleaning and decontamination of vessels on hunting and fishing license
14 applications on the Agency website or in Department of Fish and Wildlife
15 printed materials made available where hunting and fishing licenses are sold;
16 and

17 (3) the Department of Motor Vehicles shall include a notification
18 regarding the requirements for conducting wakesports in lakes in the State and
19 for the cleaning and decontamination of vessels on the Department website and
20 with materials for the registration of vessels where such materials are
21 available.

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* * * Fish and Wildlife Access Areas * * *

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 4145 is amended to read:

§ 4145. ACCESS, LANDING AREA RULES

(a) The ~~Board~~ Commissioner may adopt rules, under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, to regulate the use by the public of access areas, landing areas, parking areas, or of other lands or waters acquired or maintained pursuant to section 4144 of this title. ~~Such~~ The rules shall be posted in the areas affected and shall permit the launching of all vessels that have a Vermont registration certificate required by 23 V.S.A. chapter 29 and the parking of vehicles and boat trailers used by these vessels. The rules shall not preclude the authorization to launch vessels not registered in Vermont, provided that the vessel complies with the requirements of section 1454 of this title regarding the control of aquatic nuisance species and section 1424b of this title regarding the conduct of wakesports on lakes and the cleaning and decontamination of vessels. ~~These~~ The rules also shall permit the launching of all nonmotorized vessels not used for commercial purposes and the parking of vehicles and boat trailers used by these vessels.

(b) The Commissioner may enter into agreements with owners of land, which shall not involve payment to the landowner, in order to allow public access for launching of nonmotorized vessels in public waters. The Commissioner may agree to upgrade the land area in a minor way; for

1 example, the Commissioner may agree to build a footpath to the water, build
2 and maintain a small parking area, or perform minor grading to improve boat
3 access. The Commissioner may not agree to major upgrading, such as building
4 a launching ramp or paving a parking area. A landowner who enters into an
5 agreement under this subsection shall be afforded the landowner liability
6 protections of 12 V.S.A. § 5793. The Commissioner shall post signs in these
7 areas, inviting private contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Fund for the
8 purpose of building and maintaining nonmotorized vessel access areas; and
9 shall issue to any person contributing; a sticker that may be placed on a vessel
10 and that identifies the person as a contributor to the nonmotorized vessel
11 access area program.

12 (c) The Commissioner shall keep account of funds, including private
13 donations and State appropriations, that are deposited into the Fish and
14 Wildlife Fund for the purpose of building and maintaining access areas and
15 shall annually, on or before January 15, report to the House Committee on
16 Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and the
17 Senate and House Committees on Appropriations; concerning the use of those
18 funds in the past year and plans for use of the funds for the coming year. The
19 provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply
20 to the report to be made under this subsection.

1 (d) The ~~Board~~ Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall allow the
2 Commissioner of Environmental Conservation to post aquatic nuisance signs
3 in access areas pursuant to ~~subdivision~~ subdivisions 1453(b)(6) and (7) of this
4 title.

5 (e)(1) Upon issuance of a permit by the Commissioner of Fish and
6 Wildlife, a fishing access area may be used by an approved aquatic nuisance
7 inspection station in order to allow for the implementation of the requirements
8 of section 1454 of this title regarding the inspection of vessels entering lakes
9 and the removal and proper disposal of aquatic nuisance species from vessels.

10 (2) Any use of an access area by an aquatic nuisance inspection station
11 shall comply with the requirements of 50 C.F.R. Part 80 and the conditions of
12 a permit issued by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife. Consistent with the
13 federal regulation, if the aquatic nuisance inspection station interferes with the
14 authorized used of an access area, the aquatic nuisance inspection station shall
15 relocate or modify its activities until the interference is remediated.

16 (3) This section and any rules adopted under it shall not be construed to
17 mean that a conflict exists between a permitted aquatic nuisance inspection
18 station and a higher priority use when an operator of an aquatic inspection
19 station informs the user of a vessel of the:

1 (A) requirements under Department rule for the cleaning and
2 decontamination of a vessel; or

3 (B) requirement to inspect a vessel for aquatic nuisance species and
4 drain a vessel under section 1454 of this title.

5 (f) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, in coordination with the
6 Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, shall collaborate with any local
7 or State entity that proposes to establish, operate, and maintain an aquatic
8 nuisance inspection station at any Department of Fish and Wildlife-controlled
9 access area.

10 Sec. 10. 10 App. V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

11 § 115. USE OF STATE CONTROLLED FISHING ACCESS AREAS

12 1.0 Authority 1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4145(a)
13 which authorizes the board to make rules to “regulate the use by the public of
14 access areas, landing areas, parking areas or of other lands or waters acquired
15 or maintained pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4144.”

16 1.2 This rule applies to use of ~~state~~ State controlled fishing access areas
17 and to persons, businesses, or entities that use the fishing access areas.

18 2.0 Purpose

19 The purpose of this rule is to:

20 2.1 Ensure current and future uses are orderly, sustainable, and in
21 accordance with ~~state~~ State and federal statutes and guidelines.

1 2.2 Manage conflict between users by clarifying authorized and
2 prohibited activities and ensuring users share in the burdens and benefits of
3 use.

4 2.3 Protect the fishing access areas for statutorily approved uses.

5 3.0 Definitions 3.1 Commercial Activity is any activity or service that
6 produces income to any entity or individual.

7 3.2 Nonprofit Charitable Organization means an entity organized and
8 operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the
9 Internal Revenue Code.

10 3.3 Picnicking includes but is not limited to any activity that involves,
11 cooking, grilling, food preparation, and, set-up associated with eating
12 (including setting blankets or table cloths laid on the ground).

13 3.4 Camping includes any activity using a tent, camper, or motor home,
14 any activity involving preparation of an area for sleeping or, any overnight
15 sleeping.

16 3.5 Group use is use actually or potentially involving 10 or more people
17 or two or more vehicles at a time.

18 3.6 Parking is the leaving of motor vehicles or trailers unattended in an
19 access area.

20 3.7 Motor vehicles are all vehicles propelled or drawn by power other
21 than muscle power.

1 3.8 Vessel means motor boats, boats, kayaks, canoes and sail boats.

2 4.0 Authorized Activities

3 The following are authorized activities in order of priority:

4 4.1 Angling, ice fishing and the launching of any vessel to be used for
5 fishing and parking of vehicles and trailers necessary for and contemporaneous
6 with these purposes. Activities allowed under this subdivision include access
7 by ATVs and snowmobiles when being used solely for the purposes of ice
8 fishing.

9 4.2 The launching of inboard and outboard motorboats engaging in any
10 activity and parking of vehicles and trailers necessary for and
11 contemporaneous with that purpose.

12 4.3 Trapping, hunting and parking of vehicles and boat trailers
13 necessary for and contemporaneous with that purpose.

14 4.4 Launching of all non-motorized vessels not used for commercial
15 purposes and parking of vehicles and boat trailers necessary for and
16 contemporaneous with that purpose. Users shall launch from the designated
17 non-motorized launch site, when such a site is identified. Authorized
18 nonmotorized vessels include canoes, kayaks, row boats, and standup
19 paddleboards.

20 ~~4.5 ATVs and snowmobiles when being used solely for the purposes of~~
21 ~~ice fishing.~~

1 4.6 Permitted special uses, including the establishment of approved
2 aquatic nuisance inspection stations for cleaning or inspection of vessels
3 entering lakes pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1454, as approved and permitted by the
4 Commissioner.

5 5.0 Prohibited Activities 5.1 Discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper,
6 junk, litter, food, or any other garbage or trash.

7 5.2 Discarding of dead fish, wildlife or portions thereof.

8 5.3 Washing or cleaning of vehicles and equipment other than for the
9 purpose of removing aquatic plants and organisms.

10 5.4 Washing or cleaning of fish or wildlife.

11 5.5 Camping.

12 5.6 Picnicking.

13 5.7 Making or maintaining fire of any kind.

14 5.8 Water skiing.

15 5.9 Swimming.

16 5.10 Use of snowmobiles and ATVs, except for those being utilized
17 solely for the purpose of ice fishing.

18 5.11 Parking of vehicles and or trailers while the vehicle owner or user
19 is not present at the access area or on the adjacent public waters except as
20 otherwise permitted by the Commissioner.

1 5.12 Storage of vehicles and or trailers or placing of vehicles or trailers
2 for sale.

3 5.13 Withdrawal of water except as authorized under paragraph 6.0.

4 5.14 Parking in excess of 72 consecutive hours except that the
5 Commissioner may issue permits for longer parking when the Commissioner
6 determines that there will be no adverse impact on authorized uses found in 4.0
7 above.

8 5.15 Commercial activity except as authorized by paragraph 7.0 below.

9 5.16 Activity that interferes with a priority use, such as, but not limited
10 to the mooring or beaching of boats, using the ramp to rig a boat or boats thus
11 obstructing use of the ramp, and the storing of boats or trailers at an access
12 area.

13 5.17 Group use not specifically authorized by the Commissioner.

14 5.18 Launching and recovery of ~~sailboards~~, rafts, snow kites, and the
15 parking of vehicles and trailers supporting these activities.

16 5.19 All other activity that is not specifically permitted by this rule
17 unless specifically authorized by the Commissioner.

18 6.0 Authorized Users.

19 6.1 Any person who is engaged in any authorized activity.

20 6.2 Any group that has received approval for group use in accordance
21 with this rule.

1 6.3 Fire departments that have executed a Memorandum Of Agreement
2 (MOA) with the Commissioner for the installation and use of a dry hydrant.
3 And then, only in accordance with their MOA. Fire departments may also use
4 Access Areas without dry hydrants as emergency water sources to fight fires
5 and will notify the local warden as soon as practicably possible.

6 6.4 Individuals participating in a fishing tournament permitted under
7 10 V.S.A. § 4613.

8 7.0 Limited Commercial Activity 7.1 Commercial activity at fishing
9 access areas is limited to entities and persons taking part in activities
10 authorized by 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 above.

11 8.0 Special Permits 8.1 The Commissioner may authorize special permits
12 for entities or persons to use an access area for group use when the
13 Commissioner determines that there will be no adverse impact on authorized
14 priority uses.

15 8.2 The Commissioner may authorize the use of access areas by an
16 educational institution or a nonprofit charitable organization conducting a
17 fundraising event of limited duration, provided that the event will not conflict
18 with a priority use of the access area.

19 8.3 Special permits shall not be issued and may be revoked immediately
20 for activities that substantially interfere with authorized uses.

1 8.4 Permit fees shall be in accordance with the schedule of fees
2 established under 10 V.S.A. § 4132(e).

3 9.0 Speed Limit

4 The maximum speed on access areas shall be 15 miles per hour.

5 * * * Fishing Tournaments * * *

6 Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 4613 is amended to read:

7 § 4613. FISHING TOURNAMENTS

8 (a)(1) No person or organization shall hold a fishing tournament on the
9 waters of the State without first obtaining a permit from the Department of
10 Fish and Wildlife. Applications for a permit to hold a fishing tournament on
11 the waters of the State shall be submitted on a form issued by the
12 Commissioner.

13 (2)(A) The Department shall require an applicant for a permit for a
14 fishing tournament proposed to be held on fewer than five inland lakes to
15 affirm on the application form that the legislative body of the municipality or
16 municipalities in which the tournament is proposed has been notified of the
17 tournament by the tournament organizer. Notice may be provided to the
18 legislative body of a municipality by regular mail or email. The Department is
19 authorized to verify that an applicant for a permit for a fishing tournament
20 proposed to be held on fewer than five inland lakes notified the legislative
21 body of the municipality or municipalities where the tournament is proposed.

1 (B) If an applicant for a fishing tournament permit proposes to hold
2 the tournament on five or more inland lakes, the Department of Fish and
3 Wildlife shall post notice of the tournament on the Department’s website.

4 (C) Tournaments held on the Connecticut River, excluding Moore
5 and Comerford Reservoirs, that do not utilize an access area in Vermont are
6 not required to obtain a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

7 (3) If an application for a fishing tournament permit under this section
8 proposes a fishing tournament on an inland lake that serves as a source for a
9 public water system permitted under section 1675 of this title, the Department
10 of Fish and Wildlife shall consult with the Drinking Water and Groundwater
11 Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation prior to issuance of
12 a permit for the tournament. The Drinking Water and Groundwater Division
13 may require any fishing tournament permit issued for an inland lake that serves
14 as a source for a public water system to include conditions, requirements,
15 limits, or prohibitions on use of the inland lake.

16 (4) As used in this section, “inland lake” means all natural inland lakes,
17 ponds, flowages, and reservoirs within the territorial limits of Vermont,
18 including the impoundments of the Connecticut River within the territorial
19 limits of Vermont upstream to the first barrier to navigation. “Inland lake”
20 does not mean Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, or Wallace Pond.

1 (b) A fishing tournament means a contest in which anglers pay a fee to
2 enter and in which the entrants compete for a prize based on the quality or size
3 of the fish they catch. A contest may run multiple days, but the days must be
4 consecutive for that contest to be considered a single event. A tournament that
5 limits the entrants to ~~people~~ individuals below 15 years of age or a tournament
6 held as part of a Special Olympics program shall be exempt from paying the
7 fee required under subsection (d) of this section.

8 (c) The Commissioner shall adopt rules that establish the procedure for
9 implementation of this section. The rules shall include a provision that an
10 angler may not enter a fish that was caught and confined to an enclosed area
11 prior to the beginning of the tournament.

12 (d)(1) The Commissioner shall charge a fee based on the number of
13 participants for each permit issued under this section and shall deposit the fee
14 collected into the Fish and Wildlife Fund. Tournaments with up to 25
15 participants shall pay a fee of \$10.00; tournaments with 26 to 50 participants
16 shall pay a fee of \$30.00; and tournaments with more than 50 participants shall
17 pay a fee of \$100.00.

18 (2) If the Commissioner under subsection (a) of this section approves a
19 fishing tournament on an inland lake that serves as a public drinking water
20 source for a municipality, the applicant for the tournament shall reimburse the
21 municipality for the costs incurred by the municipality to monitor the holding

1 of the tournament to ensure compliance with conditions on the use of the water
2 or with conditions of the fishing tournament permit.

3 * * * Implementation * * *

4 Sec. 12. IMPLEMENTATION; WAKEBOAT REGISTRATION

5 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide for the designation
6 of motorboats as wakeboats and the designation of a home lake for a wakeboat
7 under 23 V.S.A. § 3305(k) beginning on January 1, 2028.

8 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall initiate annual submission
9 of compiled information regarding wakeboats to the Secretary of Natural
10 Resources under 23 V.S.A. § 3305(k) beginning on January 1, 2029.

11 * * * Effective Dates * * *

12 Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

13 This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 2 (wakesports; use of
14 waters) shall take effect January 1, 2027.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE