

1 **H. B. 2730**

2
3 (By Delegates Rodighiero, Butcher, Stowers,
4 Shaver, Crosier and Talbott)

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6 [Introduced January 21, 2011; referred to the
7 Committee on Natural Resources then the Judiciary.]

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10 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-7-22 of the Code of West Virginia,
11 1931, as amended, relating to rules governing the operation of
12 motorboats on lakes; and authorizing the use of motors
13 exceeding nine horsepower.

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

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

17 **ARTICLE 7. LAW ENFORCEMENT, MOTORBOATING, LITTER.**

18 **§20-7-22. General rules and regulations for motorboating; special**
19 **rules.**

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

22 (a) General rules ~~and regulations~~ to be observed in the
23 operation or navigation of motorboats upon, over or through the
24 waters of this state which he or she shall deem determines
25 necessary for the public health or safety of persons or property on

1 or in such waters, or for the preservation of all forms of useful
2 aquatic life, particularly as to speed, running, lights, signals,
3 courses, channels, rights-of-way, and the disposal of oil, gas,
4 gasoline or other wastes from such boats;

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

10 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, code or
11 existing rule or local rule to the contrary, the director shall
12 prescribe rules permitting the use of motors on motorboats that are
13 larger than nine horsepower to be used on lakes in the state, if
14 they are otherwise operating according to navigation rules,
15 including operating at a slow or no-wake speed within one hundred
16 feet of an anchored or moored vessel, shoreline, dock, pier, swim
17 float, marked swim areas, swimmers, surfers, persons engaged in
18 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.

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