

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 682**

By Senator Takubo

[Introduced January 30, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Natural Resources]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-7-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 the operation of motorboats with larger than 9.9 horsepower engines on lakes in idle mode;  
3 and authorizing the Director of the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate rules,  
4 restrictions, and impose fines for violations.

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

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

**§20-7-13. Motorboat classification; required lights and equipment; rules and regulations;  
pilot rules.**

1 (a) Vessels on the waters of this state are subject to lighting requirements, equipment  
2 requirements, and pilot and navigation rules, as contained in the federal navigation laws and rules  
3 promulgated by the United States Coast Guard pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Subchapter E et seq. Inland  
4 Navigation Rules, as authorized by 46 U.S.C. §4302.

5 (b) Vessels on the waters of this state are subject to ventilation requirements as contained  
6 in federal navigation laws and rules promulgated by the United States Coast Guard pursuant to 46  
7 C.F.R. §25.40 et seq., as authorized by 6 U.S.C. §4302.

8 (c) The director may promulgate rules in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et*  
9 *seq.* of this code modifying the equipment requirements contained in this section to the extent  
10 necessary to keep these requirements in conformity with the provisions of the federal navigation  
11 laws or with the navigation rules promulgated by the United States Coast Guard.

12 (d) The director may promulgate rules in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et*  
13 *seq.* of this code, pilot rules in conformity with the pilot rules contained in the federal navigation  
14 laws, or the navigation rules promulgated by the United States Coast Guard for the operation of  
15 vessels on the waters of this state.

16 (e) The director may promulgate rules in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et*  
17 *seq.* of this code restricting motorboats with engines larger than 9.9 horsepower to operating on

- 18 9.9 horsepower lakes in idle mode. These rules shall provide the authority to impose fines on the  
19 operators of motorboats violating the rules.
- 20       ~~(e)~~ (f) No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of a vessel which is not  
21 equipped as required by this section or modification thereof.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the director of Natural Resources to promulgate rules, requiring persons operating motorboats with larger than 9.9 engines on 9.9 horsepower lakes to run in idle mode. The rules are to authorize fines for violations.

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