

Assembly Bill No. 73—Committee on Natural
Resources, Agriculture, and Mining

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to watercraft; revising the requirements for the operation of a vessel towing a person; deleting provisions governing certain equipment required on certain motorboats; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires a person who operates a boat that is towing a person on water skis or another device to be at least 14 years of age, or at least 12 years of age as long as there is a passenger on the boat who is at least 21 years of age and who is in a position to supervise. The skier must also be observed by another person on the boat. The observer must be at least 12 years of age, or at least 10 years of age as long as there is a passenger on the boat who is at least 21 years of age. (NRS 488.570) **Section 3** of this bill provides that a person who operates such a boat must be at least 16 years of age, or at least 14 years of age as long as there is a passenger on the boat who is at least 18 years of age and who is in a position to supervise the operator. **Section 3** also provides that a person who is at least 14 years of age, or at least 12 years of age as long as there is a passenger on the boat who is at least 18 years of age, may act as the observer of the person being towed.

Section 4 of this bill repeals a provision which requires certain motorboats to be equipped with an efficient bell or whistle. (NRS 488.198)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 488.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

488.295 1. The owner of a boat livery shall keep a record of the name and address of the person or persons hiring any vessel which is designed or permitted by him to be operated as a motorboat, the identification number thereof, ~~and~~ the departure date and time, and the expected time of return. The record ~~shall~~ **must** be preserved for at least 6 months.

2. The owner of a boat livery or his agent or employee shall not permit any motorboat, or any vessel designed or permitted by him to be operated as a motorboat, to depart from his premises unless it has been provided, either by owner or renter, with the equipment required by NRS 488.187, 488.193 ~~[, 488.198]~~ and 488.540 and any regulations ~~made~~ **adopted** pursuant thereto.

Sec. 2. NRS 488.540 is hereby amended to read as follows:

488.540 1. The Commission may establish and maintain for the operation of vessels on the waters of this State pilot rules in conformity with the pilot rules contained in ~~the~~ federal navigation



laws or the Navigation Rules promulgated by the United States Coast Guard.

2. A person shall operate a vessel in this State in conformance with the pilot rules adopted by the Commission.

3. The operator of any vessel in this State shall maintain a proper lookout for other vessels, obstructions or hazards. An operator of a vessel who fails to maintain a proper lookout and causes injury to another person or property damage to another vessel is guilty of a misdemeanor.

4. A person shall not operate or give permission for the operation of a vessel which is not equipped as required by this section and NRS 488.185, 488.187 ~~and~~ 488.193 . ~~and 488.198.~~

Sec. 3. NRS 488.570 is hereby amended to read as follows:

488.570 1. A person shall not operate a vessel on any waters of this State towing a person on water skis, a surfboard, an inflatable device or any similar device unless the operator:

(a) Is at least ~~14~~ 16 years of age; or

(b) Is at least ~~12~~ 14 years of age, if a passenger in the vessel is a person who is ~~14~~ 18 years of age or older and is in a position to supervise the operator.

2. A person shall not operate a vessel on any waters of this State towing a person on water skis, a surfboard, an inflatable device or any similar device unless there is in the vessel a person, in addition to the operator, who is in a position to observe the person being towed and is:

(a) At least ~~12~~ 14 years of age; or

(b) At least ~~10~~ 12 years of age, if another passenger in the vessel is a person who is ~~14~~ 18 years of age or older.

➔ The observer shall continuously observe the person being towed and shall immediately display so as to be visible from every direction, an international orange flag of at least 12 inches in height by 12 inches in width when the person being towed is getting ready to be towed and has a rope or line extended to him, or ceases to be towed and is in the water awaiting pickup by the vessel.

3. When within 100 feet of the person in the water, every vessel, other than the vessel towing him, must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may it be operated at a speed greater than 5 nautical miles per hour.

4. A person shall not operate a vessel on any waters of this State towing a person on water skis, a surfboard or similar device, or engage in waterskiing, surfboarding or similar activity from sunset to sunrise, as established by the Nautical Almanac Office, United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.



5. The provisions of this section do not apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a person engaged in an activity authorized under NRS 488.305.

Sec. 4. NRS 488.198 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on January 1, 2010.

