

# HOUSE BILL No. 5469

January 14, 1998, Introduced by Rep. Middaugh and referred to the Committee on Conservation, Environment and Recreation.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending section 80152 (MCL 324.80152), as added by 1995 PA  
58.

## **THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 80152. (1) A person shall not operate a vessel on the  
2 waters of this state if he or she is towing or otherwise assist-  
3 ing a person on water skis or on a water sled, aquaplane, surf-  
4 board, or other similar contrivance unless a person capable of  
5 communicating to the vessel operator the condition and needs of  
6 the person being towed or assisted is on board the vessel and  
7 positioned to observe the person being towed or assisted.

8       (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to vessels used by duly  
9 constituted ski schools in the giving of instructions or to  
10 vessels used in sanctioned ski tournaments, competitions,

1 expositions, or trials. Vessels described in this subsection  
2 shall be equipped with a 170-degree wide-angle rearview mirror  
3 affixed in a manner that will permit the operator to observe the  
4 progress of the person being towed.

5 (3) This section does not apply to motorboats less than 16  
6 feet in length actually operated by the person being towed and so  
7 constructed as to be incapable of carrying the operator in or on  
8 the motorboat.

9 (4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY AUTHORIZE A VESSEL OPERATOR WHO IS  
10 PREPARING FOR A SKI TOURNAMENT TO TOW OR OTHERWISE ASSIST A  
11 PERSON ON WATER SKIS WITHOUT AN OBSERVER AS REQUIRED UNDER SUB-  
12 SECTION (1). THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE RULES THAT PRE-  
13 SCRIBE THE REQUIREMENTS THAT A VESSEL OPERATOR SHALL MEET TO  
14 QUALIFY TO OPERATE A VESSEL WITHOUT AN OBSERVER PURSUANT TO THIS  
15 SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONSULT STATE AND NATIONAL WATER SKI  
16 ORGANIZATIONS PRIOR TO PROMULGATING THE RULES REQUIRED UNDER THIS  
17 SUBSECTION.