

HB 1610 -- Water Safety

Sponsor: Cooper (155)

This bill prohibits any vessel less than 30 feet long from being operated within 100 feet and any vessel 30 feet or longer from being operated within 300 feet of any dock, pier, or occupied anchored vessel on any lake at a speed in excess of slow-no wake speed unless the vessel is operated by a member of the State Water Patrol, a law enforcement officer, or emergency personnel in response to an emergency call, a law enforcement investigation, or other authorized law enforcement activity.

Currently, any person who abandons a boat dock and allows it to float freely without being moored in a lake having at least 950 miles of aggregate shoreline will be guilty of an infraction and may be fined from \$25 to \$100. The bill expands this crime to include all lakes constructed or maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, except bodies of water owned by a person, corporation, association, partnership, municipality or other political subdivision, public water supply impoundments, or drainage districts.

Beginning January 1, 2010, any person owning a boat dock on certain lakes having at least 950 miles of shoreline and lakes constructed or maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers must display identifying information on the dock. Any person violating this provision will be guilty of an infraction and may be fined up to \$25.