

HB 871 -- WATERCRAFT RESTRICTIONS

SPONSOR: Hardwick

Currently, operating or positioning a vessel, object, or person in a manner that obstructs or impedes the flow of traffic on the waters of this state is guilty of a class C misdemeanor for the first offense and a class B misdemeanor for any subsequent offense. This bill changes the violation to an infraction.

The bill adds two new provisions relating to watercraft:

(1) Prohibits a person from anchoring a vessel within 100 feet of a private permitted boat dock unless authorized by the boat dock permit holder; and

(2) Prohibits a person from securing a vessel to or entering upon a private permitted boat dock unless authorized by the boat dock permit holder; except that this prohibition will not apply during inclement weather conditions or other emergencies, or actions taken to prevent an unsecured vessel from becoming a navigational hazard.

A violation of these prohibitions are an infraction.

This bill is similar to SB 49 (2021).