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Date: (Filing No. H-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 462, L.D. 693, “An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation adds increased regulation to the operation of boats equipped with wake-enhancing equipment; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect in time for the start of the next summer recreational boating season; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§16, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §380 and affected by §422 and amended by PL 2011, c. 682, §38, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (23) to read:

(23) Operate a wake boat in wake-surfing mode on any body of water in the State, except that a person may operate a wake boat in wake-surfing mode outside of a wake safety zone of a lake that has been determined by the commissioner to be safe for wake boat operation pursuant to section 13068-B.

Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §13068-B is enacted to read:

§13068-B. Approved wake-surfing lakes

1. List of approved wake-surfing lakes. The commissioner shall adopt by rule a list of lakes that are approved for operation of a wake boat in wake-surfing mode outside of a

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

wake safety zone. The list may be amended by rule in accordance with the provisions of subsections 2 and 3 based on criteria established by the commissioner. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

2. Addition of lakes to list. The commissioner may adopt rules to amend the list established under subsection 1 to add a lake if that lake meets criteria established by the commissioner for classifying a lake as approved for wake surfing. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. A public hearing on the rules must be held prior to adoption of the rules and conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 5, chapter 375.

3. Removal of lakes from list. The commissioner may by rule remove a lake from the list established under subsection 1. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. A public hearing on the rules must be held prior to adoption of the rules and conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 5, chapter 375.

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the purchase of law enforcement-rated range finders and depth finders.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$110,285	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$110,285	\$0

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: Provides funding for contracted services to develop and maintain a list of lakes that allow the use of wake boats in wake-surfing mode.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$29,669	\$29,669
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$29,669	\$29,669

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$139,954	\$29,669
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$139,954	\$29,669

Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

