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DIGEST

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SB 85 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Wheat

Present law provides for establishment of maritime navigation zones wherein watercraft must operate at the slowest speed at which control can be maintained. Further designates such zones with inconsistent terms.

Proposed law retains present law and applies the term "no-wake zone" to such zones uniformly in statute.

Present law provides that the governing authority of any parish or municipality may establish and post speed limits on waterways with its jurisdiction, except the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and requires such speed limits to be posted on the waterway.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that governing authorities may establish and post no-wake zones on the same waterways, but the no-wake zones cannot exceed 1 mile in length and 200 feet in width. Further provides that establishment of a no-wake zone by a parish or municipal governing authority does not preempt state law establishing, limiting, or prohibiting no-wake zones.

Present law specifies facilities around which there must be no-wake zones, including boat launches accessible by the public and docking facilities adjacent to a boat launch accessible by the public.

Proposed law removes the requirement that docking facilities be adjacent to public boat launches in order to require a no-wake zone and adds public bridges to those facilities that require a no-wake zone.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 34:851.4(A)(17), 851.14.1(A), and 851.27(B)(1) and (3) and (C), and R.S. 38:3086.24(F)(2)(a); Adds R.S. 34:851.27(B)(10))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the engrossed bill:

1. Limit the length and width of no-wake zones established by local governing authorities.
2. Require no-wake zones around all docking facilities accessible by the public, rather than all docking facilities adjacent to public boat launches.
3. Require no-wake zones around public bridges.
4. Make technical changes.