

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 85

2025 Regular Session

Wheat

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

BOATS/BOATING. Provides for parishes to designate no-wake zones on state waterways. (8/1/25)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Provide that no state law, rule, or regulation regarding no-wake zones shall be preempted by a no-wake zone established by parish or municipal authority.
2. Establish no-wake zones within 300 feet of all public bridges.
3. Provide that no-wake zones established by parish or municipal authority shall not extend beyond 300 feet from structures on the bank, and any no-wake zone that affects the full width of a waterway shall not exceed one mile in length.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

SB 85 Engrossed

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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. Limits the width of a no-wake zone created by parish and municipal authorities to 300 feet beyond structures on the bank. Limits the length of a no-wake zone affecting the full width of a waterway to one mile.

Proposed law provides that establishment of a no-wake zone by a parish or municipal governing authority shall not preempt state law establishing, limiting, or prohibiting no-wake zones.

Present law creates no-wake zones within 300 feet of public boat launches and adjacent docking facilities.

Proposed law retains present law and adds no-wake zones to public bridges.

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))