

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 415 (SB 85)

2025 Regular Session

Wheat

Existing 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.

New law applies the term "no-wake zone" to such zones uniformly in statute.

Existing 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.

New law provides 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.

New 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.

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

New law 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))