

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1994

324.80110 Special rules for vessels, water skis, water sleds, aquaplanes, surfboards, or other similar contrivances; investigations and inquiries; preliminary report; notice of public hearing; presentation of views by interested persons; determination by department; proposal for local ordinance; appeal; "water body" defined.

Sec. 80110. (1) The department may initiate investigations and inquiries into the need for special rules for the use of vessels, water skis, water sleds, aquaplanes, surfboards, or other similar contrivances on any of the waters of this state to assure compatibility of uses and to protect public safety. If the department receives a resolution pursuant to section 80112, the department shall initiate an investigation and inquiry under this subsection.

(2) The department's investigation and inquiry under subsection (1) into whether special rules are needed on a particular water body shall include a consideration of all of the following:

(a) Whether the activities subject to the proposed special rules pose any issues of safety to life or property.

(b) The profile of the water body, including local jurisdiction, size, geographic location, and amount of vessel traffic.

(c) The current and historical depth of the water body, including whether there is an established lake level for the water body.

(d) Whether any identifiable special problems or conditions exist on the water body for the activities subject to the proposed special rules, such as rocks, pier heads, swimming areas, public access sites, shallow waters, and submerged obstacles.

(e) Whether the proposed special rules would unreasonably interfere with normal navigational traffic.

(f) Whether user conflicts exist on the water body.

(g) Complaints received by local law enforcement agencies regarding activities on the water body.

(h) The status of any accidents that have occurred on the water body.

(i) Historical uses of the water body and potential future uses of the water body.

(j) Whether the water body is public or private.

(k) Whether existing law adequately regulates the activities subject to the proposed special rules.

(3) Following completion of the department's investigation and inquiry, the department shall prepare a preliminary report that includes the department's evaluation of the items listed in subsection (2) and the department's preliminary recommendation as to whether special rules are needed for the water body.

(4) Upon preparation of the preliminary report, the department shall provide a copy of the preliminary report to the local political subdivision that has waters subject to its jurisdiction for which the proposed special rules are being considered and shall schedule a public hearing in the vicinity of the water body to gather public input on the preliminary report and the need for special rules. Notice of the public hearing shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the water body is located, not less than 10 calendar days before the hearing. At the public hearing, interested persons shall be afforded an opportunity to present their views on the preliminary report and the need for special rules, either orally or in writing.

(5) Within 90 days following the public hearing under subsection (4), if the department determines that there is a need for special rules for the water body, the department shall propose a local ordinance or appropriate changes to a local ordinance. If the department determines that there is not a need for special rules, the department shall notify the political subdivision that has waters subject to its jurisdiction and shall provide the specific reasons for its determination.

(6) A determination by the department that there is not a need for special rules for a water body may be appealed to the commission by the political subdivision that has waters subject to its jurisdiction. The commission shall make the final agency decision on the need for special rules for a water body.

(7) As used in this section, "water body" includes all or a portion of a water body.

History: Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2006, Act 237, Imd. Eff. June 26, 2006.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: Marine Safety Act

Popular name: NREPA