

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 554  
Second Edition Engrossed 4/6/95

Short Title: Water Safety Signal Flag.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Black; Brawley, Fitch, Hackney, Lemmond, Luebke, McMahan, Pulley, and Wainwright.

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Referred to: Health and Environment.

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March 27, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR FLAGS TO SIGNAL THE PRESENCE OF SKIERS  
3 AND OTHER PERSONS IN THE WATER.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. This act shall be known as the Hirsch Water Safety Act.

6 Sec. 2. G.S. 75A-13 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 75A-13. Water skis, surfboards, etc.**

8 (a) No person shall operate a vessel on any water of this State for towing a person  
9 or persons on water skis, or a surfboard, or similar device unless there is in such a vessel  
10 a person, in addition to the operator, in a position to observe the progress of the person or  
11 persons being towed or unless the skiers wear a life preserver or unless the boat is  
12 equipped with a rear view mirror.

13 (b) No person shall operate a vessel on any water of this State towing a person or  
14 persons on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device, nor shall any person engage in water  
15 skiing, surfboarding, or similar activity at any time between the hours from one hour after  
16 sunset to one hour before sunrise.

17 (b1) No person shall operate a vessel on any water of this State towing a person or  
18 persons on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device without displaying a visible signal

1 flag on the vessel. The flag shall be of a color, pattern, material, and size specified by the  
2 Wildlife Resources Commission and shall be displayed in a manner required by the  
3 Commission unless the operation of such a vehicle is conducted on a private lake where  
4 there is no other watercraft being operated at the same time.

5 (c) The provisions of subsections ~~(a) and (b)~~ (a), (b), and (b1) of this section do not  
6 apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a person or persons engaged  
7 in an activity authorized under G.S. 75A-14.

8 (d) No person shall operate or manipulate any vessel, tow rope, or other device by  
9 which the direction or location of water skis, a surfboard, or similar device may be  
10 affected or controlled in such a way as to cause the water skis, surfboard, or similar  
11 device, or any person thereon to collide with any object or person."

12 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective December 1, 1995.