



SENATE BILL 587: Wake Surfing Safely.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 9, 2026
Introduced by:	Sens. Lazzara, Sawrey	Prepared by:	Michael Whitfield
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 587 would make wake surfing on the waters of the State within 200 feet of the shoreline or any structure, moored vessel, kayak, canoe, paddleboard, or swimmer a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 in addition to any other punishment prescribed for that offense.*

CURRENT LAW: The General Assembly has enacted legislation declaring no-wake zones for several North Carolina lakes, including Chapter 253 of the 1989 Session Laws (Lake Adger, Polk County; Lake Wylie, Mecklenburg County), S.L. 2002-23 (High Rock Lake Reservoir, Rowan County), and G.S. 75A-14.1 (Lake Norman, Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties). A violation of these provisions is generally punishable as an infraction or misdemeanor. Further, Part I of S.L. 2025-15 made it a Class 1 misdemeanor to engage in wake surfing on the waters of Lake Glenville within 200 feet of the shoreline or any structure, moored vessel, kayak, canoe, paddleboard, or swimmer.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 587 would make wake surfing on the waters of the State within 200 feet of the shoreline or any structure, moored vessel, kayak, canoe, paddleboard, or swimmer a Class 1 misdemeanor. Wake surfing would be defined as the operation of a motorboat to which weight has been added in the stern via water-filled tanks or other ballasts for the purpose of creating an artificially enlarged wake that is or is intended to be surfed by another person behind the motorboat. The offense would be punishable by a fine or not less than \$100 in addition to any other punishment prescribed for the offense.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would become effective December 1, 2026, and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

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Legislative Analysis
Division
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