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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 284  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Hillyer and Dean

Amanda Goodman, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Allows a watercraft vessel operator to use a rearview mirror to observe water skiers, barefoot skiers, and wakeboarders who are being towed by the vessel as an alternative to having an additional person in the vessel for observation purposes.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Rearview mirror usage while observing watersports

The bill allows a watercraft vessel operator to use a rearview mirror to observe water skiers, barefoot skiers, and wakeboarders who are being towed by the vessel as an alternative to having an additional person in the vessel for observation purposes so long as both of the following apply:

1. The mirror provides a wide field of vision to the rear; and
2. The mirror is mounted so that the operator can observe the activities of the person being towed.<sup>1</sup>

Current law requires a vessel operator who is towing any person who is water skiing, barefoot skiing, or wakeboarding to have an additional person in the vessel who is at least age ten to observe the progress of the person being towed.

A vessel operator who tows a person engaged in a water sport activity without having an additional observing person or a rearview mirror is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 1547.15.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 1547.99(C), not in the bill.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-02-23

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