

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

[N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program](https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/)
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: [603-271-8811](tel:603-271-8811)
<https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/>

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chair
House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1562 - AN ACT relative to personal watercraft.

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1562**, which will close a loophole and allow municipalities to regulate larger skicraft as personal watercraft on inland waterbodies.

Existing law (RSA 270:74 and 74-a) establishes safety regulations for skicraft and allows residents of a municipality to petition the Department of Safety to restrict or prohibit the use of skicraft on a specific waterbody or a portion thereof. At the time when these provisions became law, skicraft were limited to one- and two-seat vessels. There are now much larger three- and four-seat vessels that pose similar challenges to lake communities as their smaller brethren, such as disturbing lake bottom sediment, harming aquatic life, and posing some unique safety concerns.

The LMAC supports extending the same local option to these larger vessels, so that residents can petition for their regulation in the same way as is done for smaller skicraft. It is important to note that the petition process enabled by this bill would not automatically apply in municipalities that have already elected to regulate one- and two-seat personal watercraft. Therefore, the bill as proposed retains the principle of local self-determination that is in existing law.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483-A, the Lakes Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of 19 members representing academia, business, conservation organizations, lake associations, tourism, fish and game commission, marine trades, realtors, municipal government as well as several state agencies.

LMAC VOTING MEMBERS: Andrea LaMoreaux, Chair NH LAKES • Ryan Cardella, Marine Trades Association • Tiffany Grade, Conservation Community • Janet Kidder, Planning Boards • Frank Lemay, NH Business & Industry Assoc. • Joanie McIntire, NH Association of Realtors • Amanda McQuaid, Scientific Community • Lisa Morin, State Conservation Committee • Susan Price, NH Fish & Game Commission • Dick Smith, Fishing Interests • Steve Wingate, Conservation Commissions • Vacant, Municipal Official • Vacant, NH Travel Council

LMAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Garret Graaskamp, Vice Chair, NH Fish & Game Dept. • Capt. Tim Dunleavy, NH Dept. of Safety • Eric Feldbaum, NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources • Mark Hemmerlein, NH Dept. of Trans. • Allen Wyman, NH Dept. of Ag, Markets & Food • Vacant, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

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In conclusion, the LMAC supports HB 1562 for the reasons stated above. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 569-3114 or stevewingate@roadrunner.com.

Respectfully,



Steve Wingate, LMAC Legislation Subcommittee

ec: Representatives Rung, Wolf, Crawford, Coker, and Darby
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES