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WATER SKIER PRACTICE PERMIT PROGRAM

House Bill 5469

Sponsor: Rep. James. M. Middaugh
**Committee: Conservation, Environment
and Recreation**

Complete to 5-15-98

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5469 AS INTRODUCED 1-14-98

Under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), a person operating any type of watercraft may not tow a person on water skis, water sled, aquaplane, surfboard, or other contrivance, unless another person is on board who can observe the person being towed and communicate that person's condition and needs to the vessel operator. House Bill 5469 would allow an exception to this provision. Under the bill, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) could authorize a vessel operator who was preparing for a ski tournament to tow, or otherwise assist, a water skier, without having an observer on board. The bill would also specify that the DNR could consult state and national water ski organizations before promulgating rules to prescribe the requirements that a vessel operator would have to meet to qualify for this exception.

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House Bill 5469 (5-15-98)

Analyst: R. Young

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.