

Natural Resources

SB 12

Representative Sherman

Summary of Bill (*as amended*):

Senate Bill 12, as amended, prohibits a person from operating a motorboat, other than a personal watercraft, at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of the shoreline of any lake.

Assembly Amendment 1 deleted the local "opt out" provision. Instead, the amendment creates a new provision that allows a city, village, town, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district or town sanitary district to adopt a local ordinance that provides an exemption from the 100 feet of shoreline slow-no-wake requirement, substitute a smaller number for the 100 feet or opt out of a slow-no-wake restriction completely.

Assembly Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 12 was adopted by the committee on a vote of 14 yeas - 0 nays. [Representative Jim Ott absent]

A Legislative Council amendment memo was prepared on AB 3.

Fiscal Effect:

There is no State Fiscal Effect.

Local units of government will incur costs if they enact an ordinance to exempt themselves from the legislation.

Supporters Message:

- The closer to the shore, the better the vegetation, the better the vegetation the better the fishing, and restricting boat speed near the shore will protect valuable fish habitat.
- The bill will help reduce conflicts between boaters, fishermen and swimmers.
- Near shore boating increases the risk of accidents; lowering speeds helps to reduce accidents.

Opponents Message:

- Zoning should be a local matter.

Key Supporters:

Senator Jauch, author; Representative Sherman, author; Bayfield County Lakes Forum; WI Wildlife Federation; Clean WI; Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Wisconsin Association of Lakes Inc; Wisconsin Innkeepers Association

Key Opponents:

No one testified or registered against SB 12 and no one registered against it with the Government Accountability Board. However, Wisconsin Realtors Association and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities registered with Government Accountability Board as "position undecided."

Committee Vote:

On March 18, 2009, the Assembly Committee Natural Resources recommended concurrence of SB 12, as amended, on a vote of 13-1. [Huebsch voted No; J Ott absent.]

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Ginger Mueller; Office of Rep. Jim Ott (6-0486)