

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



Past Chief Commander
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Subject: House Bill No. 284 – Amend section 1547.15 of the revised code to allow an operator of a vessel to use a rearview mirror to observe water skiers, barefoot skiers and others who are being towed by the vessel.

To whom it may concern;

My name is Craig Fraser and I am the Immediate Past Chief Commander of the United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club. The organization started in 1914 with the mission of educating the boating public in boating safety. We continue our mission today, still self-educating the boating public in boating safety. Our NASBLA approved course, America's Boating Course 3, contains a section on Recreational Towing which includes water skiing, tubing, etc. The first paragraph identifies the need and requirement of wearing an impact-rated life jacket. The second paragraph states – "The observer on the towing vessel is required and the essential link from the captain to the towed persons; hand signals between the towed person and the observer are necessary". The observer "spotter" must maintain view of the skier at all times to insure safety of the towed individual. The operator of the towing vessel cannot maintain a lookout of his or her surroundings and observe the towed person at the same time through a rearview mirror.

During any given summer day on the waters of Ohio, there can and will be boating congestion. Boating congestion is another reason why an observer/spotter is required. The boat operator must be focused on his/her surroundings and cannot also reasonably observe the towed individual through a mirror at the same time.

For these reasons and others, I must oppose HB284.

Yours in Safe Boating,

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