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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**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 284's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

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

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The Waterways Safety Fund (Fund 7086) may incur a negligible loss of fine revenue as a result of fewer citations being issued for improperly towing a person behind a watercraft.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill allows an operator of a watercraft that is towing a person riding or attempting to ride one or more water skis, a surfboard, or similar device to use a rearview mirror to observe the person being towed. This may result in fewer citations being issued for improperly towing a water skier and a negligible decrease in fine revenue deposited to the credit of the Waterways Safety Fund (Fund 7086). Under current law a person being towed behind a watercraft must be observed at all times by a person ten years of age or older who is not the operator of the towing vessel. A person who violates this requirement is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Minor misdemeanors are punishable by a fine of up to \$150. Under continuing law, fine revenue for watercraft violations must be deposited to Fund 7086. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), three citations were issued for improperly towing a person behind a watercraft in FY 2023 and a total of \$64 of fine revenue was collected.