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SENATE FILE 1  
BY ANGELO and MADDOX

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the display of a safety flag by a vessel  
2 towing a water skier and providing a penalty.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 1  
NAT. RES. & ENVIRONMENT

1 Section 1. Section 462A.15, Code 1999, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 462A.15 WATER SKIS AND SURFBOARDS.

4 1. ~~No~~ A person shall not operate a vessel on any waters of  
5 this state under the jurisdiction of the commission for towing  
6 a person or persons on water skis, surfboard, or similar  
7 device unless ~~there-is-in-such-vessel~~ a responsible person is  
8 in the vessel, in addition to the operator, in a position to  
9 observe the progress of the person or persons being towed. A  
10 vessel towing a person on water skis, surfboard, or similar  
11 device shall also have a safety flag attached to the rear of  
12 the vessel which extends not less than five feet above the  
13 water. The safety flag shall be day-glo in color and  
14 triangular in shape with an area of not less than thirty  
15 square inches. A person convicted of a violation of this  
16 subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a  
17 scheduled violation under section 805.8, subsection 3,  
18 paragraph "c".

19 2. ~~The-provisions-of-subsections-1-and-2-of-this~~ This  
20 section ~~do~~ does not apply to a performer or person engaged in  
21 a professional exhibition ~~or-a-person-or-persons-engaged-in-a~~  
22 ~~professional-exhibition~~ or to a person ~~or-persons~~ engaged in  
23 an activity authorized under section 462A.16.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill requires vessels, except vessels being used for  
26 exhibitions, races, or other events, to display a safety flag  
27 while pulling a person on water skis or on a similar device.  
28 The safety flag must extend at least five feet above the water  
29 and be day-glo in color, triangular in shape, and at least 30  
30 square inches in size. Currently, a person who operates a  
31 vessel for towing a person without having another responsible  
32 person in the vessel to observe the person being towed is  
33 guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled fine  
34 of \$25. This bill makes the penalty applicable to a violation  
35 of the safety flag requirement.