



Senate Transportation Committee
Testimony on SB 2382

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Scott Winkelman, Chief Game Warden
February 2, 2023

Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Scott Winkelman, Chief Game Warden for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I am testifying today in opposition of SB 2382 as written.

As written, SB 2382 would change multiple areas of the current law regarding motorboat registration and lower the classification of offense and fine amount for subsection 6 of section 20.1-13-07 of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC). The bill would remove the ninety-day reciprocity period for watercraft that are licensed out of state. Removing this reciprocity period would require all motorboats that are currently licensed in another state to be licensed in North Dakota before being used on our waterbodies. This would create a significant issue for our department and thousands of anglers and recreational boaters who are residents of another state and fish, hunt, or boat in North Dakota. It would also cause conflict with US Coast Guard laws that prohibit a boat from being licensed in multiple states.

Subsection 6 of section 20.1 13-07 prohibits an individual from operating a motorboat or vessel within one hundred feet of a person fishing from a shoreline, swimmer, swimming diving raft, or an occupied, anchored or nonmotorized vessel, or within two hundred fifty feet of a reduced speed or slow or no wake sign at greater than slow or no wake speed, and is a class b misdemeanor. The bill as written would reduce the classification of offense by stating that an individual who violates this subsection is subject to a fine of one hundred dollars. Violations of this section of law cause significant and serious safety issues and reducing the classification and fine amount would reduce the amount of compliance with the law.

The bill as written would also remove the exemption from state licensure for certain classes of motorboats, namely, those boats that are documented with the United States Coast Guard. The Department is neutral on this specific part of the bill.

Therefore, the Department is asking the committee to send a recommendation of do not pass for SB 2382 as written.