



HOUSE BILL 1218: Navigable Waters/Pine Knoll Shores.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 2, 2026
Introduced by:	Rep. Cairns	Prepared by:	Ike McRee
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 1218 would empower the Town of Pine Knoll Shores (Town) to make, adopt, and enforce ordinances for the navigable waters of canals and Bogue Sound within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the Town.

The proposed committee substitute (PCS) removes language authorizing the Town to enact ordinances designating no-wake zones and makes technical and conforming changes to the bill for language consistency.

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 75A-15, the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is empowered to adopt rules for local waters as to the (i) operation of vessels, including restrictions concerning speed zones, (ii) promotion of boating and water safety, and (iii) placement and maintenance of navigation aids and markers under G.S. 75A-15(a)(3).

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of the PCS would empower the Town to adopt and enforce ordinances for the navigable waters of canals and Bogue Sound within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the Town concerning:

- Placement and maintenance of channel aids and markers, anchoring aids and markers, and navigational aids and markers in conformity with the United States Aids to Navigation System and the rules of WRC as adopted for use on the State's waters. The Town's Board of Commissioners would be required, by ordinance, to identify the location of the devices by use of Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates and to notify the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in writing of the intent to place devices at least six weeks prior to placement of any devices.
- The enforcement of ordinances adopted under authority of the act in accordance with G.S. 160A-175.

Section 2 of the PCS would clarify that the act is intended to supersede G.S. 75A-15(a)(3) within the Town's corporate limits, but that any other State or federal rule or regulation will supersede and prevail over the local ordinance to the extent of any conflict between the two.

Section 3 of the PCS would provide that law enforcement officers of the Town, the Carteret County Sheriff's Office, and WRC have authority to enforce any local ordinance adopted under the act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective when it becomes law.

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