



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
 20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
 GOVERNOR

August 17, 2008

**GOVERNOR'S OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE**

*House Bill 2167, "An act to increase the width of boats that may be transported on highway routes during the day and night without a permit and to provide for an annual permit as opposed to a single trip permit for oversize boats."*


House Bill 2167, allows extremely large boats as wide as 9-1/2 feet to be towed on any state road at anytime, including night time, any day of the week, without a permit as required by all other states from Texas to Virginia. This bill would also allow a blood alcohol level of .08, double that allowed by commercial vehicles of smaller size.

I sincerely believe that this bill puts families at a risk on the highways and would result in death or serious injury. North Carolina has 60,000 miles of narrow two lane roads that cannot accommodate the 9-1/2 foot width and maintains roughly 1,000 bridges 18-foot wide or less, which would require a 9-1/2 foot boat to cross the center line in violation of N.C.G.S. 20-146, and into oncoming traffic. Further, if two 9-1/2 foot boats were to meet on an 18-foot strip of road or bridge it would be physically impossible to escape a collision.

I am deeply concerned about 9-1/2 foot boats meeting a school bus. The buses travel primarily on rural roads and often in the dark during early morning and early evening hours.

I encourage the General Assembly to let boat haulers use the current law of permitting for the rest of this season and then have the legislature take up this issue in January when there is time to thoughtfully avoid the consequences of this bill.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

  
 Michael F. Easley

*The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House of Representatives on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2008 at \_\_\_\_\_ for reconsideration by that body.*

*Debbie Weeks 8:45pm*  
 RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

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