

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2055 (Jeff Gonzalez) – As Amended March 16, 2026

Policy Committee:	Transportation	Vote:	16 - 0
	Public Safety		9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill, among other things, newly authorizes a peace officer to issue a written notice to appear in court when the peace officer has reasonable cause to believe that any person involved in a vessel accident has violated the Vehicle Code that is not declared to be a felony or a local ordinance and the violation was a factor in the occurrence of the vessel accident.

In addition, this bill:

- 1) Makes the failure of a vessel to display a ski flag to indicate a swimmer in the vicinity of the vessel an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding \$15.
- 2) Modifies the existing definition of a “for-hire vessel” so that any vessel propelled by machinery carrying one or more passengers for hire is a for-hire vessel, rather than such a vehicle carrying three or more passengers, as defined in current law.
- 3) Requires every vessel using the water or on the waters of California be registered with the state, to the extent permissible under federal law.
- 4) Prohibits a court from staying, suspending, or entertaining dismissal of the proceedings of a case in which a person is charged with operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs, for attendance or participation in any education, training, or treatment programs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

The infraction created by this bill is unlikely to result in significant costs to the courts.

To the extent this bill results in an increase in the number of vessels registering with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), it will create additional workload and, therefore, costs to the DMV; however, those costs should be fully covered by the existing registration and registration renewal fees.

COMMENTS:

State law requires a person operating a vessel on the water to do so reasonably and prudently and in a way that does not endanger the operator, others or property. However, and unlike the laws regarding vehicles operating on the roadways, state law does not explicitly empower a peace officer to cite the operator of a vessel for a violation of the Vehicle Code when the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person involved in a traffic accident has violated a provision

of the Vehicle Code not declared to be a felony or a local ordinance and the violation was a factor in the occurrence of the traffic accident.

This bill provides such explicit authority in state law and makes other vessel-and-boating related changes. According to the author, "The common thread for the provision in this bill is the safe and legal operation of vessels."

The bill is supported by the California State Association of Sheriffs and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. There is no opposition registered against this bill.

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