
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2055 (Jeff Gonzalez) - Vessels: operation: registration

Version: June 16, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0, TRANS. 12 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 2055 would revise registration and operation specifications of vessels and expand the scope of certain vessel related penalties.

Fiscal Impact: Workload increase of \$175,000 annually to the Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways resulting from the change in the definition of a for-hire vessel from more than three to one or more (Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund).

Minor, absorbable costs to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). It is the responsibility of the local agency to ensure that their course is POST certified

The Department of Motor Vehicles would have absorbable costs associated with requiring every vessel using the water or on the waters of California be registered with the state, to the extent permissible under federal law.

Proposed Law: This bill provides that a peace officer has reasonable cause to issue a written notice to appear if, as a result of the officer's investigation, the officer has evidence, either testimonial or real, or a combination of testimonial and real, that would be sufficient to issue a written notice to appear if the officer had personally witnessed the events investigated.

This bill requires that a notice to appear contain the name and address of the person, the registration number of the person's vessel, if any, the name and address, when available, of the registered owner or lessee of the vessel, the offense charged, and the time and place when and where the person may appear in court or before a person authorized to receive a deposit of bail. Requires that the time specified is at least 10 days after the notice to appear is delivered.

This bill 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.

This bill defines a "for-hire vessel" as any vessel propelled by machinery carrying one or more passengers for hire. This bill 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.

This bill requires every vessel using the water or on the waters of California to be registered with the state, to the extent permissible under federal law.

This bill 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.

Staff Comments: Division of Boating and Waterways law enforcement indicated that requiring the raising and lowering of a flag during dangerous situations and conditions could cause confusion, resulting in a more unsafe situation. Exempting public safety activities would eliminate the potential increased safety threat while keeping public safety personnel compliant with the law.

Recommended Amendments: Section 658.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code is amended to read:

(c) Subdivisions (a) and (b) do not apply to *public safety activities*, a performer engaged in a professional exhibition, or a person engaged in a regatta, vessel or water ski race or competition, or other marine event authorized pursuant to Section 268.