



## Division of Boating and Waterways

April 23, 2014

**STAFF REPORT:** Legislative Update  
**STAFF:** Sylvia Hunter, Deputy Director of Boating and Waterways  
**SUBJECT:** California Legislation

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### Summary

This report provides summary excerpts and status of bills that may affect the Division of Boating and Waterways. Information contained in this report is accurate as of April 23, 2014. Changes in status of some bills or introduction of new bills may occur between the date this report was prepared and the Commission meeting date.

### CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION UPDATE

#### **Senate Bill 941 (Monning) Vessel operator cards**

**Summary:** This bill would require the Division of Boating and Waterways (Division), to develop a vessel operator education program by December 31, 2017. *This program would apply exclusively to operators of engine propelled vessels.* This program, which would phase in over eight years, would require vessel operators to pass an exam and be issued a vessel operator card to operate a vessel in California. A separate temporary card would be required for rental operators. The bill would require the Division to develop regulations and establish a fee for the card. The Vessel Operator Certification Account, created by this bill, would be seeded by a \$4 million loan from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, to cover the initial administrative costs for program development and implementation. The bill stipulates this loan would be paid back within three years of the effective date of the regulations. This bill contains an annual reporting requirement beginning, April 2019. The report would serve as an evaluative tool to determine a correlation between vessel operator education and a reduction in vessel accidents.

**Status:** 4/22/14 – Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

#### **Senate Bill 1162 (Berryhill): Vessels: violations**

**Summary:** This bill would reclassify several boating-related violations as infractions instead of misdemeanors. These violations include: mooring a vessel to a buoy or beacon not designated for mooring; operating a vessel in excess of 5mph within 200 feet of a marina; and towing a water skier without a spotter.

**Status:** 4/23/14 – Senate Floor

**Senate Bill 1424 (Wolk): State property: tidelands transfer: City of Martinez**

**Summary:** This bill would modify the land grant to the City of Martinez for the Martinez Marina and surrounding properties.

**Status:** 4/22/14 – To Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Commission Action**

For information only

**Attachments**

None.