



Division of Boating and Waterways

November 5, 2014

STAFF REPORT: Legislative Update

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SUBJECT: California Legislation

Summary

This report provides summary excerpts and status of bills that may affect the Division of Boating and Waterways and reflects end of session statuses.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION UPDATE

Senate Bill 941 (Monning): Vessel operator cards

Summary: This bill requires the Division of Boating and Waterways (Division), to develop a vessel operator education program by January 1, 2018. *This program applies exclusively to operators of engine propelled vessels.* This program, which will phase in over eight years, requires vessel operators to pass an exam and be issued a vessel operator card to operate a vessel in California. The bill requires the Division to develop regulations and establish a fee for the card. The Vessel Operator Certification Account, created by this bill, will be seeded by a \$4 million loan from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, to cover the initial costs for program development and implementation. The bill stipulates this loan must be repaid within eight years of the effective date of the regulations. This bill contains an annual reporting requirement beginning, April 2019. The report will serve as an evaluative tool to determine a correlation between vessel operator education and a reduction in vessel accidents.

Status: Signed by the Governor – Chapter 433, Statutes of 2014
(Becomes effective January 1, 2015)

Senate Bill 1162 (Berryhill): Vessels: violations

Summary: This bill reclassifies 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: Signed by the Governor – Chapter 67, Statutes of 2014
(Becomes effective January 1, 2015)

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: Signed by the Governor – Chapter 628, Statutes of 2014
(Becomes effective January 1, 2015)

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

None