

NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signatures of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.

An Act

HOUSE BILL 26-1197

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Mauro, McCormick, Boesenecker, Goldstein, Lindsay, Stewart K.;
also SENATOR(S) Kipp, Amabile, Cutter, Gonzales J., Kolker, Roberts, Snyder, Wallace, Coleman.

CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE VESSEL REGISTRATION PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal** (27)(a)(IV); and **add** (37)(a)(III) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal.

(27) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2026:

(IV) ~~The registration and regulation of vessels by the department of natural resources in accordance with article 13 of title 33, C.R.S.;~~

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(37) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2036:

(III) THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF VESSELS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 13 OF TITLE 33.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 33-13-116 as follows:

33-13-116. Repeal of sections.

Sections 33-13-103, 33-13-104, 33-13-105, and 33-13-107 and this section are repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2026~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2036. Prior to the repeal, the function of registration and regulation of vessels shall be reviewed as provided for in section 24-34-104.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-13-102, **amend** (5); and **add** (5.3) as follows:

33-13-102. Definitions.

As used in this article 13, unless the context otherwise requires:

(5) (a) "Vessel" means every ~~description of watercraft~~ TYPE OF WATERCRAFT, EXCEPT A SEAPLANE ON THE WATER, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation ~~of persons and property~~ on the water, ~~including all types of stand-up paddleboards~~ BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE FISHING AIDS, AIR MATTRESSES, BEACH AND WATER TOYS, OR INNER TUBES.

(b) ~~"Vessel" does not include:~~

~~(I) Any single-chambered, air-inflated devices that are not stand-up paddleboards; or~~

~~(II) Seaplanes.~~

(5.3) "VESSEL LIVERY" MEANS A PERSON THAT ADVERTISES AND OFFERS A VESSEL FOR RENT OR LEASE TO ANOTHER PERSON IN EXCHANGE FOR ANY KIND OF PAYMENT.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 33-13-107 as follows:

33-13-107. Vessel liveries - repeal.

(1) ~~The owner or operator of~~ A vessel livery shall keep a record of the name and address of each person ~~who~~ THAT hires any vessel that is designed or permitted to be operated as a vessel, the hull identification number of the vessel, and the departure date and time and the expected date and time of return of the vessel. Such records shall be preserved for at least ~~thirty days~~ THREE YEARS after the vessel is to be returned and ~~shall be~~ ARE subject to inspection by the division. Any person ~~who~~ THAT violates this subsection (1) commits a civil infraction and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

(2) ~~Neither the owner nor operator of~~ A vessel livery ~~nor such owner's or operator's~~ OR THE VESSEL LIVERY'S agent or employee shall NOT permit any vessel to depart from ~~his or her~~ THE VESSEL LIVERY'S premises unless such vessel is equipped and registered as required by this article 13 and rules ~~promulgated~~ ADOPTED pursuant to this article 13. Any person ~~who~~ THAT violates this subsection (2) commits a civil infraction and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-17-107.1, **amend** (4) and (5) as follows:

33-13-107.1. Minimum age of motorboat operators - penalty - exception.

(4) ~~Neither an owner or operator of~~ A vessel livery ~~nor~~ OR an agent or employee of ~~such owner or operator~~ THE VESSEL LIVERY shall NOT lease, hire, or rent a motorboat to or for operation by any individual under ~~eighteen years of age~~ YEARS OLD; except that an individual ~~fourteen years of age~~ YEARS OLD or older who has not reached the individual's eighteenth birthday may be permitted or authorized to operate a motorboat if the individual has met the boating safety and certificate requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(5) Any ~~individual who~~ PERSON THAT violates this section commits a civil infraction and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of one

hundred dollars.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-32-102, **amend** (8) as follows:

33-32-102. Definitions.

As used in this article 32, unless the context otherwise requires:

(8) (a) "Vessel" means every ~~description of watercraft~~ TYPE OF WATERCRAFT, EXCEPT A SEAPLANE ON THE WATER, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation of persons and property on the water, ~~including all types of stand-up paddleboards~~ BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE FISHING AIDS, AIR MATTRESSES, BEACH AND WATER TOYS, OR INNER TUBES.

(b) ~~"Vessel" does not include:~~

~~(I) Any single-chambered, air-inflated devices that are not stand-up paddleboards; or~~

~~(II) Scaplanes.~~

SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date applicability.

(1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

(2) This act applies to conduct occurring on or after the applicable effective date of this act.

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

James Rashad Coleman, Sr.
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Vanessa Reilly
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Esther van Mourik
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

APPROVED _____
(Date and Time)

Jared S. Polis
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO