



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1197: SUNSET WATER VESSEL REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Mauro

Sen. Kipp

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Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: February 24, 2026

Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill continues the water vessel registration program in the Department of Natural Resources until 2036.

Types of impacts. The bill continues a program currently scheduled to repeal, which will extend existing fiscal impacts through FY 2037-38 in the following areas:

- State Expenditures
- State Revenue

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue (Cash Funds)	\$0	\$2,700,000
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$0	\$120,000
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.9 FTE

These impacts result from continuing a program scheduled to repeal and reflect the extension of current revenue and spending levels.

Summary of Legislation

The bill continues the registration and regulation of water vessels by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for ten years, until September 1, 2036, as recommended in the Department of Regulatory Agencies [2025 sunset](#) review of the program.

Background

Boats operated on the waters of Colorado must be registered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the DNR and display a registration number on the vessel's hull. Funds raised through the registration program support CPW's boating safety activities, which include running a statewide patrol team, training marine officers, producing educational materials and classes, and maintaining recreational boating facilities. Registration fees are also used in the United States Coast Guard's calculations for federal matching funds.

Continuing Program Impacts

Based on DNR's FY 2026-27 budget request for the Vessel Registration Program, expenditures are expected to be \$120,000 and about 0.9 FTE for direct operations of the registration program (but excluding boat safety and other activities funded through these registration fees). In FY 2024-25, a total of 71,147 water vessels were registered with CPW, and about \$2.7 million was collected in registration fees.

If this bill is enacted, current revenue and expenditures will continue for the program starting in FY 2027-28. All revenue and expenditures are from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund in the DNR. Since the CPW is a state enterprise, this continuing revenue is not subject to the state TABOR limits. If this bill is not enacted, the program will enter a one-year wind-down period and then end on September 1, 2027, one year after its statutory repeal date. If allowed to repeal, state revenue and expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2027-28 by the amounts shown in Table 1.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).