

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 205

BY SENATOR HENSGENS

BOATS/BOATING. Provides for boat registrations. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 34:851.19 and 851.22(A), relative to boat registrations; to
3 provide for vessel certificate numbers; to provide for motorboats, houseboats, and
4 sailboats; to provide for approved numbering systems; to provide for documented
5 vessels; to provide for federal documentation and marking of vessels; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 34:851.19 and 851.22(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §851.19. Operation of unnumbered motorboats, houseboats, or sailboats prohibited;
11 exception

12 Every **undocumented** motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat operated on the
13 waters of this state shall be numbered. No person shall operate or give permission
14 for the operation of any motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat on such waters unless the
15 motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat is numbered in accordance with this Part or in
16 accordance with applicable federal law or in accordance with a federally approved
17 numbering system of another state, and unless the certificate of number awarded to

1 the motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat is in full force and effect, and the identifying
2 number set forth in the certificate of number is displayed on each side of the bow of
3 the motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat as provided in this Part.

4 * * *

5 §851.22. Exemption from numbering system

6 A. A motorboat shall not be required to be numbered under this Part if it is:

7 (1) Already covered by a number in full force and effect which has been
8 awarded to it pursuant to federal law ~~or~~.

9 (2) Already covered by a federally approved numbering system of another
10 state; however such boat shall not have been within this state for a period in excess
11 of ninety consecutive days.

12 ~~(2)~~ **(3)** A motorboat from a country other than the United States temporarily
13 using the waters of this state.

14 ~~(3)~~ **(4)** A public vessel of the United States, a state, or a subdivision thereof.

15 ~~(4)~~ **(5)** A ship's lifeboat.

16 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Present law requires any motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat operated on the waters of the state to be numbered in accordance with state or federal law and to display the numbers on each side of the vessel's bow.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that a documented vessel, under federal regulation, properly certificated and marked in accordance with federal law, is not subject to state numbering and number display requirements.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 34:851.19 and 851.22(A))