

Date of Hearing: July 7, 2025

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

SCR 54 (Grayson) – As Introduced April 1, 2025

**SENATE VOTE:** 36-0

**SUBJECT:** San Francisco Bar Pilots

**SUMMARY:** Honors former and current members of the San Francisco Bar Pilots and commemorates the 175th anniversary of the San Francisco Bar Pilots.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Makes findings and declarations that it is the policy of the state to ensure the safety of persons, vessels, and property using Monterey Bay and the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun, and the tributaries thereof, and to avoid damage to those waters and surrounding ecosystems as a result of vessel collision or damage, by providing competent, efficient, and regulated pilotage for vessels required by this division to secure pilotage services. (Harbors and Navigation Code (HNC), Section 1100)
- 2) Defines the “Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun” to mean all the waters of those bays and of the tributaries, ports, and harbors of those bays, and includes the water areas from the south end of San Francisco Bay and from the Ports of Sacramento and Stockton to the Golden Gate Bridge. “Bay of San Francisco, San Pablo, or Suisun” means any of those waters, respectively. Defines the “Board” as the Board of the Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco San Pablo, and Suisun. (Harbors and Navigation Code (HNC), Section 1110 and 1111)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal.

**COMMENTS:** The San Francisco Bar Pilots, established by Captain William Richardson, have continuously assisted maritime trade and protected the navigable waters of San Francisco Bay and adjoining waters since 1835.

In the California Legislature’s very first session in the City of Pueblo de San José which began on December 15, 1849, and ended on April 22, 1850, the Assembly and Senate quickly recognized the importance of pilotage to the state’s commerce.

The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Port of San Francisco, now known as the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun, is the longest operating state board or commission in California history.

The waters worked by the San Francisco Bar Pilots are some of our nation’s busiest. Commercial and recreational fishing boats, commuter ferries, military and Coast Guard vessels, pleasure craft, and commercial ships and tankers all share the waters. Through this veritable water-traffic jam, the pilots guide the biggest ships with the most dangerous cargo.

The waters protected by the San Francisco Bar Pilots are the largest estuary on the west coast of North and South America, and include 1,000 miles of shoreline and more than 90% of California's coastal marshland.

This resolution honors both the former and current members of the San Francisco Bar Pilots and commemorates the 175th anniversary of the San Francisco Bar Pilots, honoring their unwavering dedication to maritime safety, economic vitality, and environmental stewardship in the bays and rivers throughout California's history, and, in doing so, recognizes that the San Francisco Bar Pilots, like a ship abiding the currents, abide — ensuring safe passage through ever-changing waters.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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