

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 326 Vessels/Clean Ocean Act by Senator Constantine

Requires that owners or operators of certain vessels operating in coastal waters register with the Department of Environmental Regulation (DEP) prior to entering the marine waters of the state. Requires ports to establish procedures for the release of certain substances from vessels at port facilities and such procedures shall include a process for the verification of the contents released. Requires the owners or operators of a vessel to report a release of certain substances into coastal waters to the DEP within 24 hours. Provides for civil penalties of not more than \$50,000 for each violation. Provides exemptions for releases made for the purpose of securing the safety of the vessel or saving a life at sea. Provides that the DEP shall collect fees to cover the costs of vessel registration, release tracking, and compliance and enforcement responsibilities. Requires that the DEP request appropriate federal agencies to prohibit the release of certain substances from any vessel within federal territorial waters off the shores of this state. (See bill for details)