

CERTIFICATE OF BOAT NUMBER – Revocation

What was proposed?

The Department proposed establishing the ability for the Department to revoke a certificate of number that has been issued to a vessel that has been modified in such a way that it is no longer a vessel.

The Department has the ability to revoke licenses in other contexts, such as hunting and fishing licenses. By creating the ability to revoke a certificate of number for a vessel, the Department will be aligning these abilities in its various regulatory contexts. If the Department revokes a certificate of number, the Department will follow the same procedures it currently follows in the hunting and fishing license context. This means that the Department will provide notice to the individual of the Departmental action through a Notice of Agency Action and the individual will have an opportunity to appear at a hearing conducted in accordance with the contested case procedures set forth in State Government Article, Title 10, Subtitle 2, Annotated Code of Maryland, and COMAR 08.01.04. The Department would then have to show a hearing officer that its actions were appropriate and lawful. If the hearing officer agreed that the action was appropriate and lawful, the Department would be able to revoke the certificate of number. If the individual instead were to show the hearing officer that the Department was incorrect in its action, the Department would not revoke the certificate of number.

Why is this change necessary?

The Department discovered that there is no regulatory mechanism to revoke a previously issued certificate of number. The Department may need to undertake action upon discovering an object that may have once been a vessel but has been modified in such a way that it is no longer a vessel. Examples of these scenarios would be applying for a certificate of number for a vessel that has had its floor removed and is now being used as a planter in a yard, or attempting to renew a certificate of number for a vessel that has been modified to act as a shell on a car, to give the impression of a vessel driving down the road.

Who does this affect?

Any individual who applies for a certificate of number for an object that is not a vessel or any person who has a certificate of number and modifies the vessel in such a way as to no longer be a vessel.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulations .05 through .08 under COMAR 08.04.03 Certificate of Boat Number.

Have these changes been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested individuals?

The idea was scoped with the Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) and the general public from July 30, 2025, through August 14, 2025.

Regulatory Process

The Department is following our normal procedures as this concept moves forward.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the Department determined that the action is necessary and appropriate. The rules are being promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal was printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register on January 9, 2026.
- A 30 day public comment period began on the day of publication. The comment period ends February 9, 2026.
- After review of the comments, the Department may adopt the changes.
- If the Department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.

Effective Date of Change

The Department projects that this change could be effective March 2026, however the exact date cannot be determined at this time.