



RBOC
Protecting your boating interests.

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BOATER BRIEF

SPECIAL EDITION

Vessel Operator Certification Law Enacted

Governor Jerry Brown has signed into law RBOC-supported SB 941 [Monning and DeSaulnier] to phase-in a boat operator certification requirement in California.

SB 941 requires that boat operators pass a boating education examination and obtain a vessel operator card issued by the state Division of Boating and Waterways [DBW] in order to operate a boat in California that is propelled by an engine. This legislation will enhance safety on the state's waterways.

SB 941 is modeled on legislation RBOC sponsored previously. This new measure requires DBW to issue

a vessel operator card to individuals who have passed an approved course.

The requirement to obtain a vessel operator card would apply initially to operators 20 years of age or younger with a phased-in implementation date depending on the age of the individual.

The seven-year phase-in would begin in 2018 and would eventually apply to everyone as of 2025. Importantly, online education including the free BoatUS Foundation course will be an option. The BoatUS Foundation course is available at: <http://www.boatus.org/courses/>

Boaters are subject to the certification requirement according to the following schedule:







In addition, the fees to be established by DBW for certificates will be at levels sufficient to cover the reasonable costs of the development, establishment, and operation of the program. SB 941 will prohibit the fees from exceeding those costs.

Support RBOC

We estimate that, over the years, RBOC's efforts are saving California boaters several hundreds of dollars each year.

It is easy to make a contribution either mail donations to: RBOC, 925 L Street – Ste. 260, Sacramento, CA 95814-3703 OR donations may be made on-line at www.rbo.org using Discover, Visa, American Express, MasterCard, or PayPal. Donations are not tax deductible due to RBOC's extensive lobbying efforts.

							
20 YRS	25 YRS	35 YRS	40 YRS	45 YRS	50 YRS	60 YRS	ALL
1/1/18	1/1/19	1/1/20	1/1/21	1/1/22	1/1/23	1/1/24	1/1/25