

New Law for Safer Boating

**Brianna's
Law**



Governor Cuomo recently signed Brianna's Law which goes into effect starting January 1, 2020 and becomes fully effective by January 1, 2025. Brianna's Law modifies Sec. 49-1 of the Navigation Law to require **all** operators of motorboats to hold a boating safety certificate. Currently, Sec. 49-1 requires all persons born on or after May 1, 1996 to have a boating safety certificate while operating a motorboat. Brianna's Law builds on that requirement by utilizing a phase-in model based on a person's date of birth (see chart below).

If you were born on or after:	You will need a boating safety certificate when operating a motorized vessel during:
January 1, 1993	2020
January 1, 1988	2022
January 1, 1983	2023
January 1, 1978	2024
All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025	

Other Changes and Exemptions

- Patrons renting boats from a livery operation do not need a boating safety certificate if the livery staff demonstrate safe handling and locations of safety equipment prior to rental. Livery staff must possess a certificate.
- Under the previous law, owners of new boats had a 120-day grace period from the date of purchase to obtain a safe boating certificate. This accommodation has been **eliminated** under Brianna's Law, effective January 1, 2020.
- The law previously allowed for non-certified persons to operate a motor boat if someone with a certificate was in the boat. This no longer applies; **anyone operating the boat must have a certificate.**

Boating safety certificates can be obtained by attending classroom or online boating safety courses. Brianna's Law continues to recognize boating safety certificates issued by other organizations such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary and America's Boating Club (formerly the U.S. Power Squadron). Please visit the Boating Education webpage at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx> for more detailed information. If the information on the webpage or FAQ link does not address questions you may have, please contact the Marine Services Bureau.

Please also be aware that New York State Parks is no longer collecting information from students regarding their gender. Newly issued boating safety certificates may have a blank in the gender field or they may not have a gender field on them at all.