

Albuquerque, NM



Cycle of Safety Legislation

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Albuquerque, NM

Presentation Overview

- **Who is the MRAA?**
- **Boater Education - National Overview**
- **Shopping List – Ingredients for Boater Education Legislation**
 - **2023 Legislative Victories**
 - **2023 Legislative Challenges**
 - **2024 – What's Cookin'?**
- **Looking Ahead - Opportunities in 2025**
 - **Questions**

Who is the MRAA?

Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA)

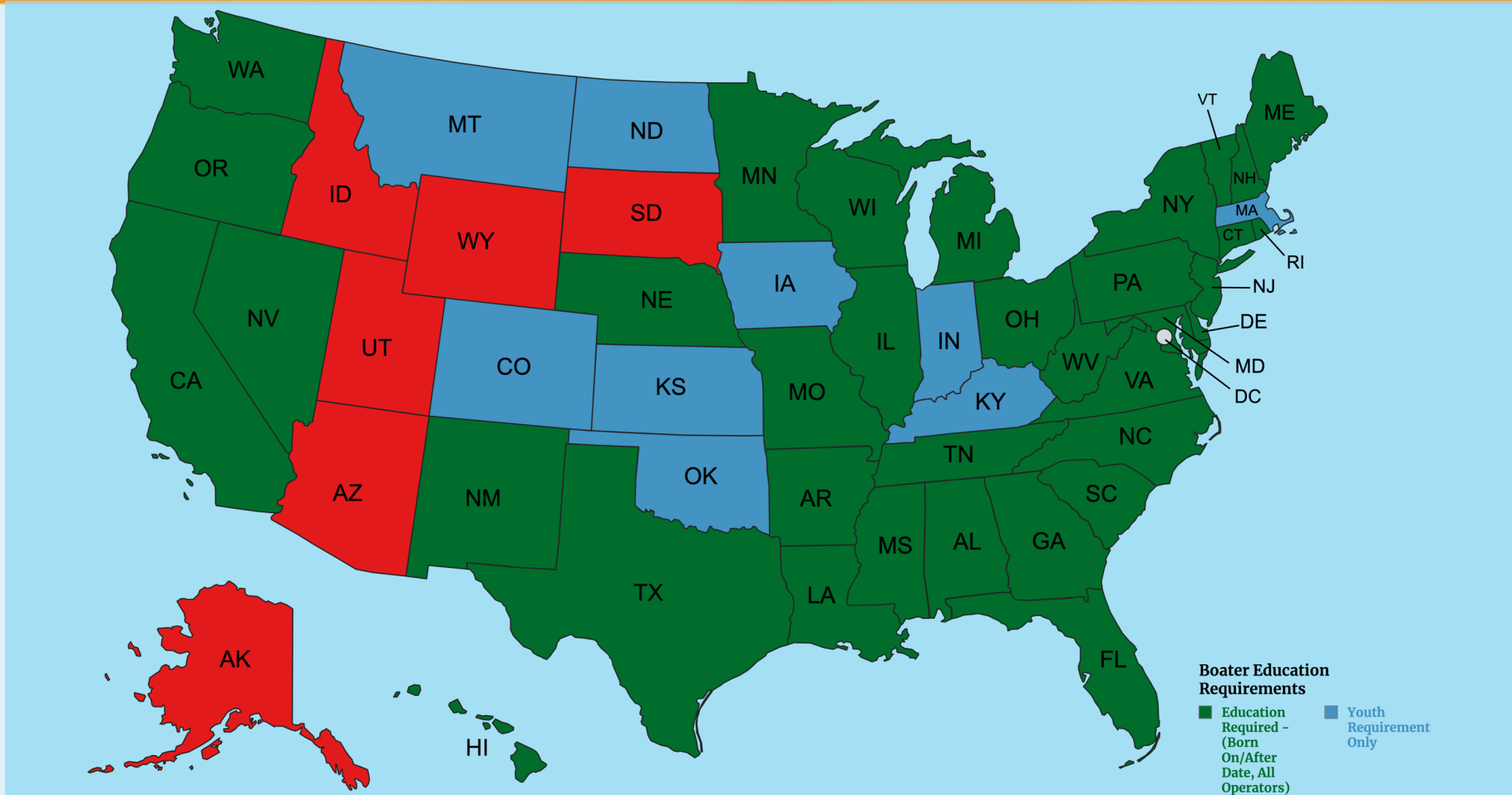
- **501(c)(6) non-profit trade association.**
- **Focused on Marine Retailer success.**
- **Vision**
 - A thriving marine industry, driven by dealer success.
- **Mission**
 - We fuel dealer success.
- **Who do we serve?**
 - Recreational marine dealers, parts and accessory stores, marinas.
- **What do we offer?**
 - Dealer Certification Program, dealer education, advocacy, Dealer Week Conference and Expo.



Who is the MRAA – Video!



Boater Education Overview

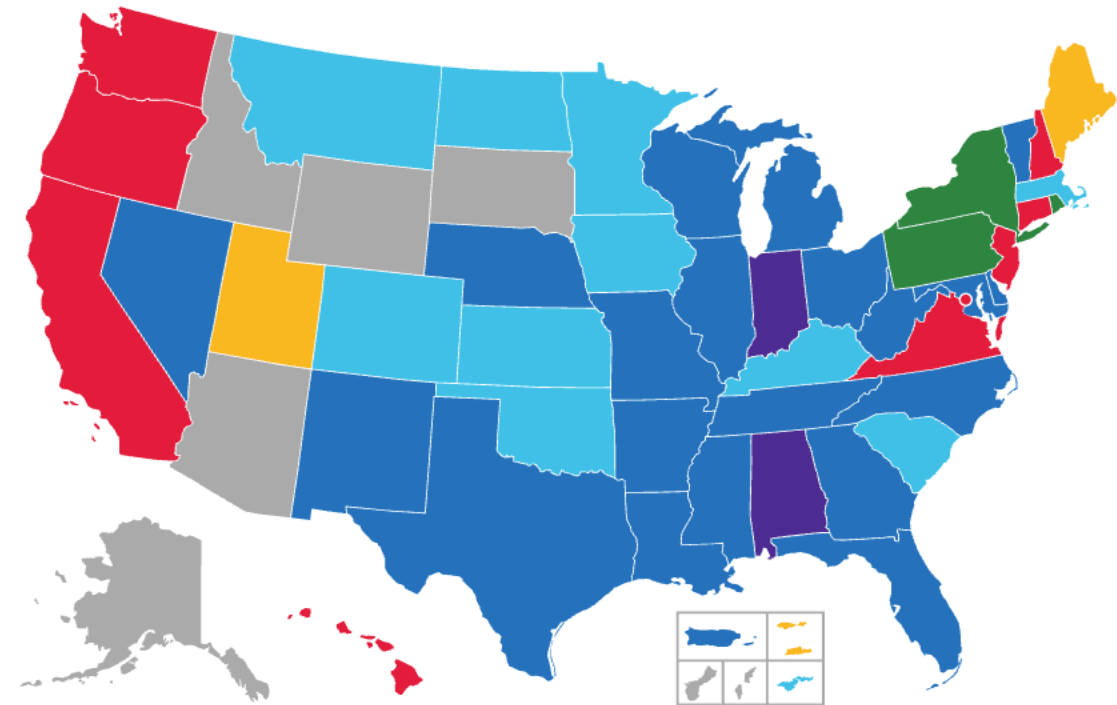


Boater Education Breakdown

Boater Education Requirements:

- **45 States Require Boater Education**
 - Born After Date – 28
 - NV, NE, NM, TX, MO, AR, LA, WI, IL, MS, MI, OH, TN, GA, FL, NC, SC, WV, MD, DE, VT, MN, ME, PA, NY, RI, AL, IN.
 - All Powerboat Operators - 8
 - CA, OR, WA, VA, NJ, NH, CT, HI.
 - Youth Requirement Only– 8
 - MT, CO, KS, OK, ND, IA, KY, MA.
 - PWC Only - 1
 - UT
- **5 States Have No Requirements.**
 - ID, AZ, WY, SD, AK.

Education Requirements – State



● No Boating Education Requirements

● PWCs Only

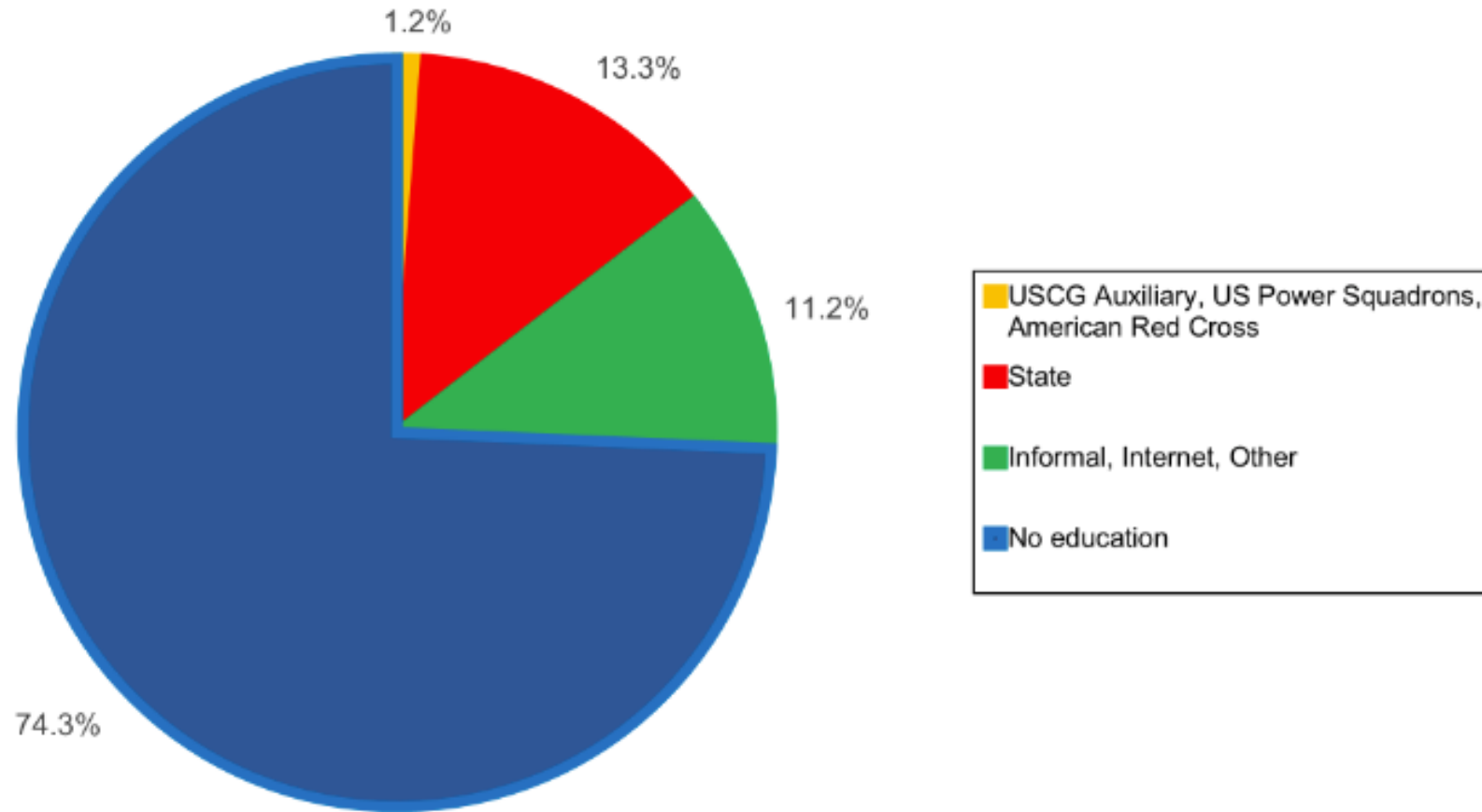
● Youth Requirement Only (under certain age)

● All Powerboat Operators (Many defined by HP; Includes PWCs)

● Operator or Motor Vehicle License Required

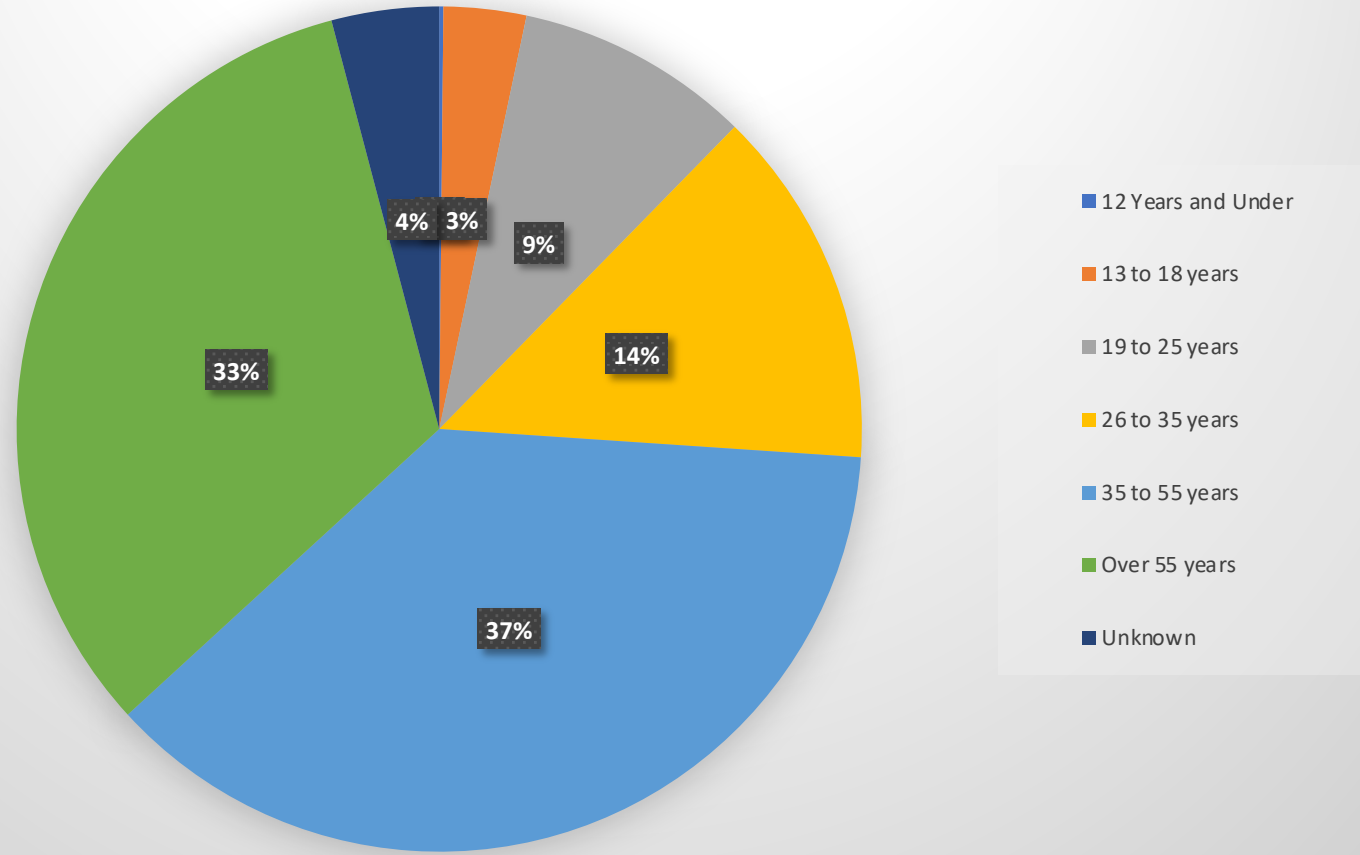
By The Numbers - Efficacy of Boater Education

Figure 7 PERCENT OF DEATHS BY KNOWN OPERATOR INSTRUCTION, 2022



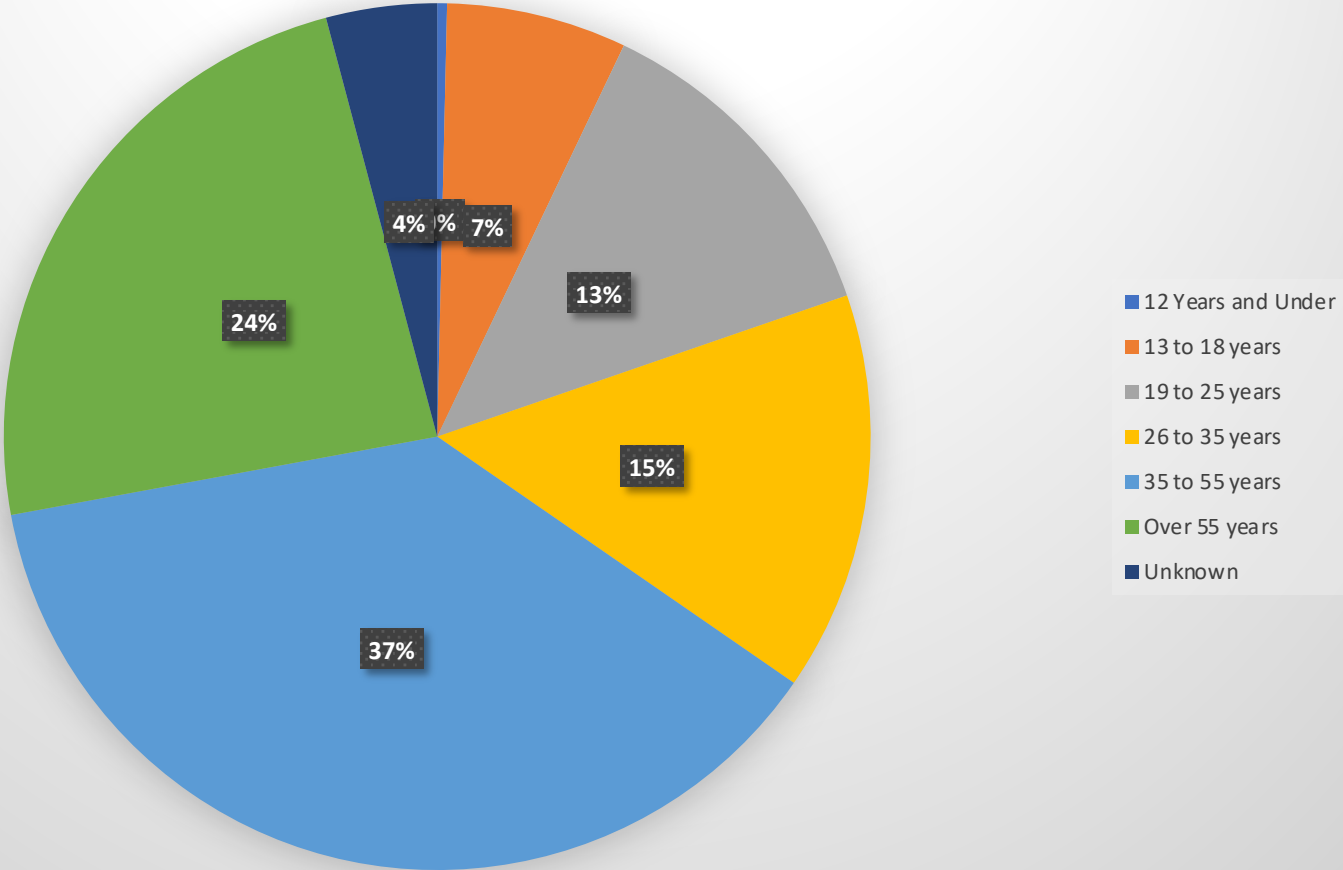
By The Numbers – Age and Deaths?

National Boating Deaths - Age of Operator 2022



By The Numbers – Age and Injuries?

National Boating Injuries - Age of Operator 2022



The Right Stuff – Crafting Successful Boater Education Legislation

Key Components

- **Born After Date**

- Legislation sets date and anyone born after said date is required to take boater education course.
- Helps to usher in new regulation slowly while building to include all boaters.

- **National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Approved**

- Requires course is NASBLA approved, ensuring adherence to best practices.

- **Consideration for Renters and Liveries**

- Includes short-term educational requirements for out-of-state vessel renters.
- Ensures that all operators have a baseline of understanding.



The Right Stuff – Crafting Successful Boater Education Legislation

Key Components

- **Reciprocity**

- Allow non-residents, who have successfully completed a NASBLA approved course in another state, to operate on state waters.

- **Horsepower Limitation**

- Varies among states. Usually, vessels above 10 or 25 horsepower will require boater education certificate.
 - Underscores the importance of stakeholder input.



Year in Review – 2023 Victories

Success in 3 States!

- **Passed boater education legislation in Minnesota, South Carolina, and Maine.**
 - Supported by Industry Coalition.
 - National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA), Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA), and the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.).
 - Grassroots Support
 - Local stakeholders key to success in MN, SC, and ME.
 - Marine Trades Association played key role in supporting these efforts.
- **Multi-Year Effort**
 - Boater education legislation first introduced in Minnesota in 2022.
 - Was poised to pass, but legislature adjourned before inclusion in year-end bill.
 - Maine was also a multi-year effort. Bill initially passed in 2022, Second session of 130th.



Year in Review – Boater Education Specifics – Minnesota and South Carolina

Minnesota (H.F. 949/ S.F. 553)

- **Born After Date**
 - Institutes born after date to phase in regulation.
 - Begins July 1st, 2025, requiring anyone born on or after 2004.
 - Ends July 1st, 2028, requiring anyone born on or after 1987.
- **NASBLA**
 - Legislation requires that course is NASBLA approved.
- **Renters and Liveries**
 - Renters must receive summary of Minnesota boating regulations;
 - Renters required to take, and pass, short boater safety examination before embarking.
- **Reciprocity**
 - Legislation requires reciprocity agreements to be made with other states who have similar requirements.
- **Horsepower**
 - Individuals 12-17 cannot operate a motorboat of more than 25 HP.

South Carolina (S. 96/ A. 74)

- **Born After Date**
 - Institutes born after date to phase in regulation.
 - Requires all boaters born after July 1st, 2007, to take course.
- **Renters and Liveries**
 - Renters required to take, and pass, short boater safety examination before embarking.
 - Only valid while operating vessel from a business engaged in renting.
- **Reciprocity**
 - Individuals who have successfully completed a boating safety course in another state are eligible to be issued a SC boater safety certificate.
- **Horsepower**
 - Cannot operate a vessel over 10hp.



Year in Review – Boater Education Specifics - Maine

Maine (LD 1663)

- **Born After Date**
 - Anyone born after January 1st, 1999, required to take boater education course.
- **NASBLA**
 - Legislation requires that course is NASBLA approved.
- **Renters and Liveries**
 - Does require temporary boater education course.
- **Reciprocity**
 - Legislation requires reciprocity agreements to be made with other states who have similar requirements.
- **Horsepower**
 - Individuals born after January 1st, 1999, cannot operate a motorboat of 25hp or more.

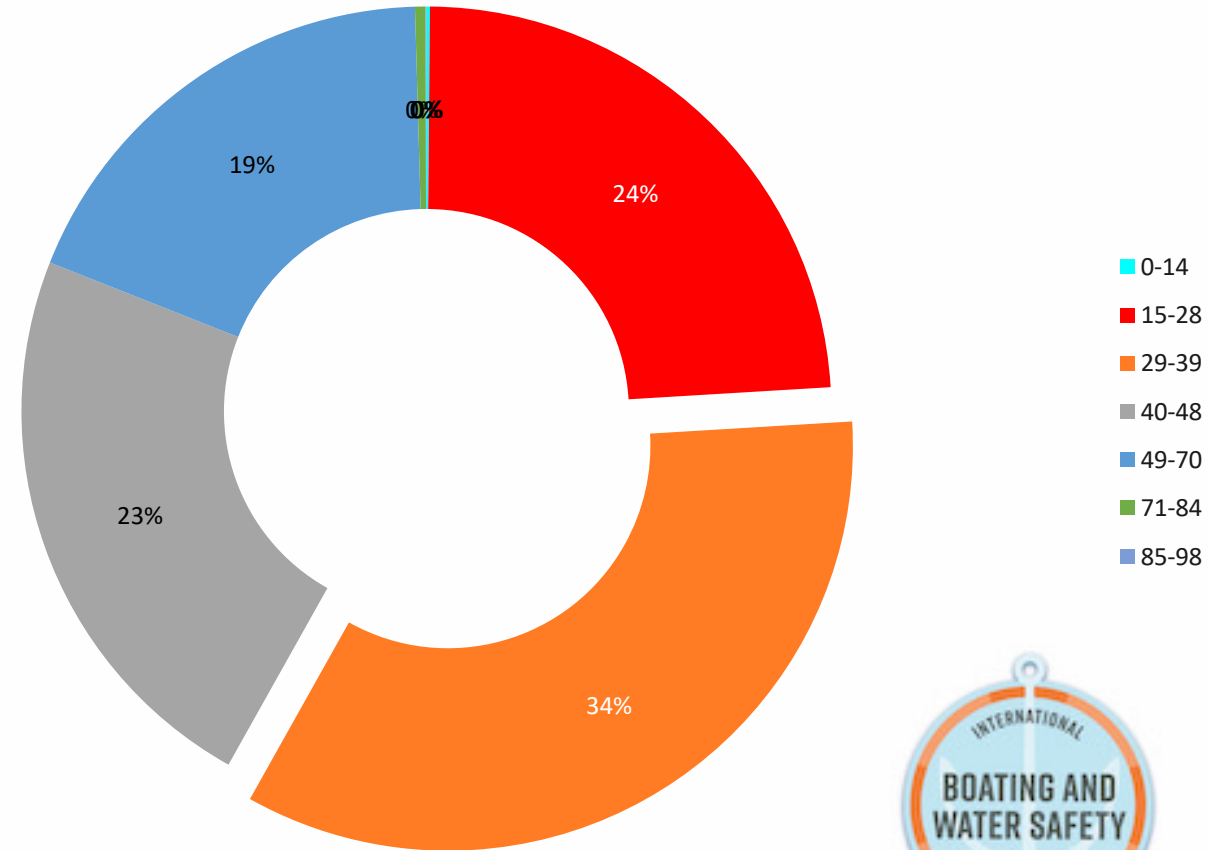


Year in Review – 2023 Challenge

Colorado – By the Numbers

- **Need for Education**
 - Incident report data shows boaters in the 29-39 years of age range have most citations.
- **Initial Legislation:**
 - Required any individual born after January 1st, 1984 to take a boater education course;
 - Required renters to have a successfully completed boater education course.

Total Citations by Age Group (Years)



Year in Review – 2023 Challenge

- **Outcome**

- Updated requirements that all individuals 18 and below now must take boater education course.
- Modest increase, as CO previously required boater education for individuals 14-16.

- **Lessons Learned**

- Politics may interfere with policy goals.
- Limited success may close door to future attempts.



February 13th, 2023

The Honorable Faith Winter
Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
200 E Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Kevin Priola
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
200 E Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chair Winter, Vice Chair Priola and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy:

The undersigned organizations write today to express our support for SB 69 *Requirements to Operate a Motorboat* and urge the committee to vote favorable on both amendments put forth today. The undersigned organizations represent the full breadth of the recreational boating industry nationally and locally and appreciate the leadership of Senator Hinrichsen and Senator Will to make boating in Colorado safer for all.



2024 – What's Cookin'?

Busy Year for Boater Education

- Establish Boater Education Requirements
 - Arizona (H.B. 2149), Massachusetts (H.3362/S.536)
- Expand Boater Education Requirements
 - Florida (S.B. 30), Tennessee (S.B.2115/H.B.2831), Georgia (S.B. 41), Alabama (H.B. 375)
- Establish Boater Education Requirements for Paddle Craft
 - Washington (S.B. 5597).

2024 Boater Education Legislation

2024 Boater Education Legislation

Filter this list... Submit

- S.536: An Act Relative To Boater Safety To Be Known As The David Hanson Act
State: MA | Sponsor: MA Sen. Susan Moran (D-MA-Massachusetts Senate Plymouth and Barnstable) | Status: Reported Favorably by Committee | Last Action: Mar 28th, 2024
- H.B.1542: Relative to Possession and Presentation of Safe Boater Education Certificates.
State: NH | Sponsor: | Status: Reported Favorably by Committee | Last Action: Mar 28th, 2024
- H.B.375: Vessels, Nonresident Alabama Boater Safety Certification requirement, provided
State: AL | Sponsor: AL Rep. Ginny Shaver (R-AL-039) | Status: Referred to House committee | Last Action: Mar 21st, 2024
- H.B.2149: watercraft operation; minors; safety education
State: AZ | Sponsor: AZ Rep. David Cook (R-AZ-007) | Status: Second Reading in Second Chamber | Last Action: Mar 11th, 2024
- S.B.2115: Boats, Boating - As introduced, increases from 12 to 16 the minimum age for operating a personal watercraft without direct adult supervision; requires persons operating personal watercraft to maintain financial...
State: TN | Sponsor: TN Sen. Art Swann (R-TN-002) | Status: Failed by Committee | Last Action: Mar 6th, 2024
- H.B.5331: Relating to boating safety education certificate
State: WV | Sponsor: WV Del. Geoff Foster (R-WV-020) | Status: Third (Final) Reading | Last Action: Feb 28th, 2024
- H.B.2831: Boats, Boating - As introduced, increases from 12 to 16 the minimum age for operating a personal watercraft without direct adult supervision; requires persons operating personal watercraft to maintain financial...
State: TN | Sponsor: TN Rep. Karen Camper (D-TN-087) | Status: Referred to House committee | Last Action: Feb 7th, 2024
- S.B.41: Watercraft; completion of a boater education course for registration of a watercraft; require
State: GA | Sponsor: GA Sen. Rick "Ricky" Williams (R-GA-025) | Status: Reported Favorably by Committee | Last Action: Jan 25th, 2024
- C.S./S.B. 30: Boating Safety
State: FL | Sponsor: FL Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-FL-036) | Status: Introduced in Senate | Last Action: Jan 9th, 2024
- H.B. 1889: Requires the proceeds from boating safety identification card fees to be used to fund statewide boating safety initiatives
State: MO | Sponsor: MO Rep. Lisa Thomas (R-MO-123) | Status: Second Reading | Last Action: Jan 4th, 2024
- H.B. 1888: Modifies provisions relating to boating safety identification cards
State: MO | Sponsor: MO Rep. Lisa Thomas (R-MO-123) | Status: Second Reading | Last Action: Jan 4th, 2024
- H.3362: An Act Relative To Boater Safety To Be Known As The David Hanson Act
State: MA | Sponsor: MA Rep. Kathleen LaNatra (D-MA-Massachusetts House 12th Plymouth) | Status: Hearing Scheduled | Last Action: Nov 8th, 2023
- S.B. 5597: Modifying Boater Safety and Education Requirements.

13 Bills



Top Priorities – 2024 Boater Education Efforts

Arizona Boating Accidents and Fatalities

Arizona -

- Introduction

- Need for

Legislation Specifics:

- **Born After Date**

- Boater education certificate required for anyone born after January 1st, 2007.

- **Reciprocity**

- Reciprocity between states with programs that are “substantially similar” to Arizona course.

- **Horsepower Limitation**

- Put in place a 50Hp horsepower limitation.

| Year | Accidents | Fatalities |
|------|-----------|------------|
| 2017 | 123 | 12 |
| 2018 | 129 | 11 |
| 2019 | 96 | 7 |
| 2020 | 162 | 10 |
| 2021 | 118 | 13 |
| 2022 | 124 | 13 |

Source: 2022 Recreational Boating Statistics



Arizona – Legislative Process Explained

Step 1: Finding a Champion

- Grassroots Efforts
 - Receipt of Letters
 - Provide Testimony
 - Include Legislators
 - Legislative Staff
 - Legislative Offices
- Legislators
 - Met with Stakeholders
 - Identify Issues



Step 2: Meeting and Educating Legislators

- Present to a committee.
- Provide testimony.
- Work with the House to garner support.



Step 3: Craft the Message

- Gather Stakeholders
- Work with Legislators
 - Provide Testimony
- Legislative Process

- Work Engagement
- Encourage others to highlight issues.



Arizona – Outcome – Almost, but not really..

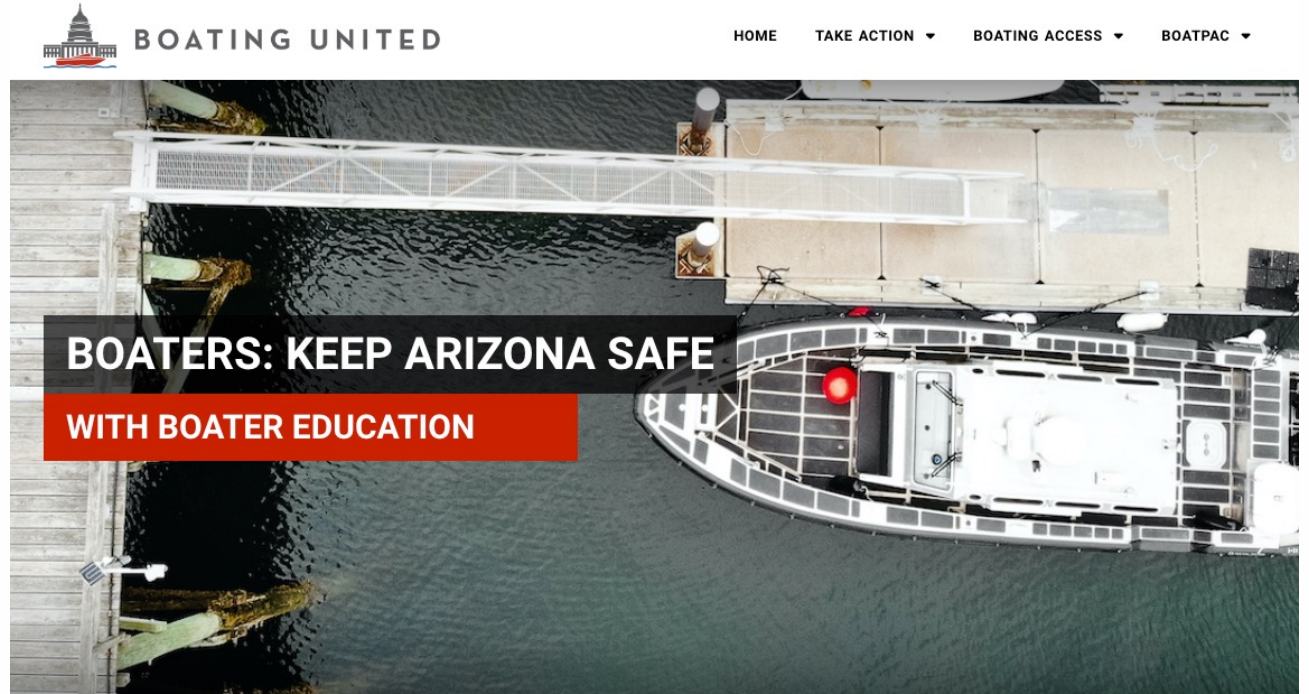
Path of HB 2149

• Success in the House!

- Passed Transportation Committee
 - 9 Yeas, 2 Nays
- Passed Rules Committee
 - 9 Yeas, 0 Nays
- Passed Committee of the Whole
 - Do pass amended
- Passed House
 - 40 Yeas, 17 Nays, 3 Non-Voting.

• Died in the Senate

- Failure to meet Committee Deadline
 - Ultimately killed the legislation.



Arizona: Help Get Commonsense Boater Education Bills Across The Finish Line!

The Arizona Senate has **until Friday, March 22** to keep HB 2149, establishing boater education in Arizona, alive. Please email Senate President Petersen and ask him to reassign HB 2149 to the Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee, asking the committee to schedule the bill for a hearing.

In the Grand Canyon State, there are over 126,000 registered watercrafts. As the boating industry experiences record growth, it's imperative the boating community advocate for strong, commonsense legislation that establishes safety standards

Fill out the form below to send a message to your Senators and Representatives.

Moving Forward - Marine Retailer Opportunities

Sea Tow Foundation Grant

- Applied for Coast Guard National Nonprofit Organization Grant
 - Bridge gap between non-profits and retailers in recreational boating safety space.
- **Partners**
 - **Silver Buckshot – Not Silver Bullet**
 - Sea Tow Foundation will collaborate with:
 - Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
 - National Marine Manufacturers Association
- **Goal**
 - Leverage point of sale,
 - Educate consumers,
 - Add another safe boating touchpoint.



Questions

