

Boating Safety Certificate Massachusetts

John Collins, USCG Auxiliary, Sector Boston ADSO-PE

Massachusetts has finally gotten in line with other states with the signing of the Hanson-Milone Act, which requires state boaters to obtain a safety certificate that must be present on the boat being operated at all times. The bill initially requires a boating safety course certificate for anyone under age 36. In three years, everyone must have one and most important, the certificate must be carried on board.

The new law provides certain exemptions to qualified operators and includes provisions for boaters who already hold safety certificates from other organizations. Guidance for the new law will roll out later this year.

A variety of organizations offer boating safety courses.

Coast Guard Auxiliary: https://cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php

Power Squadron: <https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/cfindx.cgi?C>

Boatwise: <https://boatwise.com/>

New England Maritime: <https://www.nemaritime.com/>