

## Human Resources Branch Memorandum

<b>SUBJECT:</b> <b>California Boater Card</b>	<b>NUMBER:</b> <b>HRB 18-022</b>
	<b>DATE ISSUED:</b> <b>October 15, 2018</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b> <b>CDFW All</b>	<b>EXPIRES:</b> <b>N/A</b>

**Action Required**       **Informational Only**       **Control Agency Directive**

### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform employees of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) of new laws regarding the requirement of certain operators of motorized vessels to possess a California Boater Card.

### Authority

- [Senate Bill \(SB\) 941](#)
- Harbors and Navigation Code Section 678 – Vessel Operator’s Education and Certification Cards

### CALIFORNIA BOATER CARD

The recently passed SB 941 prohibits the operation of a vessel that is propelled by an engine in the waters of the state except by a person who is in possession of a valid vessel operator card, referred to as the California Boater Card. A violation of the law’s provisions is an infraction and CDFW employees are not permitted to operate a motor vessel without meeting licensing requirements. The new law will be phased in by age; by 2025, all persons who operate a motorized vessel on California waters will be required to possess a California Boater Card. The law will be phased in by age as follows:

1. On and after January 1, 2018: A person 20 years of age or younger.
2. On and after January 1, 2019: A person 25 years of age or younger.
3. On and after January 1, 2020: A person 35 years of age or younger.
4. On and after January 1, 2021: A person 40 years of age or younger.
5. On and after January 1, 2022: A person 45 years of age or younger.
6. On and after January 1, 2023: A person 50 years of age or younger.
7. On and after January 1, 2024: A person 60 years of age or younger.
8. On and after January 1, 2025: All persons, regardless of age

CDFW employees in classifications impacted by SB 941 can expect to see revisions to specification minimum qualifications as additional age groups are phased in. To apply for your Boater Card, please follow the instructions on the [California Boater Card Apply Now webpage](#). The \$10 fee is reimbursable through [CalATERS](#).

### Contact

If you have any questions, please contact your supervisor.