



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

DNR-B-2026-1

SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE GUIDE
Amendment to Subtitle 04 Boating
Regarding the Department's Regulations for Boat Dealer License Fees
COMAR 08.04.09.01
Released February 24, 2026

This Guide is prepared in accordance with the requirements of State Government Article, §10-110, Annotated Code of Maryland. It is intended to help small businesses comply with the revised rules adopted in the above-referenced sections of the Code of Maryland Regulations. This Guide is not intended to replace or supersede these rules, but to facilitate compliance with the rules. Although we have attempted to cover all parts of the rules that might be especially important to small businesses, the coverage may not be exhaustive. This Guide cannot anticipate all situations in which the rules apply. Furthermore, the Department retains the discretion to adopt case-by-case approaches, where appropriate, that may differ from this Guide. Any decisions regarding a particular small business will be based on the statute and any relevant rules and regulations.

In any civil or administrative action against a small business for a violation of rules, the content of the Small Business Compliance Guide may be considered as evidence of the reasonableness or appropriateness of proposed fines, penalties, or damages. Interested parties are free to file comments regarding this Guide and the appropriateness of its application to a particular situation. The Department will then consider whether the recommendations or interpretations in the Guide are appropriate in that situation. The Department may decide to revise this Guide without public notice to reflect changes in the Department's approach to implementing a rule, or it may clarify or update the text of the Guide. Direct your comments and recommendations, or calls for further assistance, to Fishing and Boating Services:

410-260-8300
410-260-8DNR; toll free in Maryland 877-620-8DNR; TTY Users Call via the Maryland Relay
Fax: 410-260-8310

I. SUMMARY

What was proposed?

The Department proposed updating the annual license fee for a boat dealer. The proposed action increases the fee from \$25 to \$50.

Why is this change necessary?

During the 2025 Maryland Legislative Session, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 719](#). That bill was signed by Governor Moore, became effective October 1, 2025 (2025 Md. Laws, Chap. 433), and requires the Department to set the license fee at an amount not to exceed \$50. The increase in the fee reflects the increasing costs for the Department to do business. The proposed action updates the boat dealer license fee for the first time since 1983 and the revenue from this increase will allow the Department's licensing and registration programs to continue to be self-sustaining.

Who will this affect?

Boat manufacturers and dealers that conduct business in Maryland. A manufacturer or dealer may not conduct business in the State unless licensed as a Maryland boat dealer. A dealer with multiple locations in the State must secure a separate license for each location where sales activities take place. The impact to each manufacturer or dealer is an additional \$25 per location each year.

What do you need to do to comply with the change?

This action updates the fee to an existing boat dealer license, so nothing new is needed.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested or impacted individuals?

- The idea was scoped with the Boat Act Advisory Committee at their meeting in May 2025.
- The idea was scoped with the general public from July 30, 2025, through August 14, 2025.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulation .01 under COMAR 08.04.09 Boat Dealer License.

II. DEFINITIONS

“Dealer” means any person who engages in whole or in part in the business of buying, selling, or exchanging new and unused vessels, or used vessels, or both, either outright or on conditional sale, bailment, lease, chattel mortgage, or otherwise, and who has an established place of business for sale, trade, and display of vessels. A yacht broker is a dealer.

“Manufacturer” means any person engaged in the business of manufacturing or importing new and unused vessels, or new and unused outboard motors, for the purpose of sale or trade.

III. RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This action does not create any new recordkeeping or reporting requirements.

IV. REGULATORY PROCESS

Boating rules in Maryland may be created by either the General Assembly or the Department. When the Department creates a boating rule, it is called a regulation. When the General Assembly creates a rule, it is called a statute. The Department often has to create a regulation to implement a statute. The regulatory process begins with scoping and the Department follows normal [procedures](#) as concepts move forward.

During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a boating problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that actions can be developed. After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the Department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy. The ideas for this proposal were scoped from July 30, 2025, through August 14, 2025.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the Department determined that the action is necessary and appropriate. The rules are being promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal was printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register on February 20, 2026.
- A 30 day public comment period began on the day of publication. The comment period ends March 23, 2026.
- After reviewing the comments, the Department may adopt the changes.
- If the Department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.

V. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The Department projects that this change could be effective in April of 2026, however the exact date cannot be determined at this time.