

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 61

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

FISHING: Extends the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund and extends payments into the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:700.2(A)(4) and 700.6, relative to the Fishermen's Gear  
3 Compensation Fund; to extend the existence of such fund; to extend payments into  
4 the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund; to provide for an effective date; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:700.2(A)(4) and 700.6 are hereby amended and reenacted to read  
8 as follows:

9 §700.2. Establishment, continuance, and purposes of fund; geographical coverage;  
10 assessments

11 A. There is hereby established in the state treasury a Fishermen's Gear  
12 Compensation Fund into which amounts paid pursuant to this Section shall be  
13 deposited. The fund shall be available to the secretary only for the following  
14 purposes:

15 \* \* \*

16 (4) On July 1, 2014, and on each July first thereafter and ending on June 30,  
17 ~~2022~~, 2026, the state treasurer shall annually deposit the amount of two hundred fifty  
18 thousand dollars into the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund as provided in R.S.  
19 30:101.9. The department shall seek to match these funds with whatever federal or  
20 state funds may be available for such purposes.

21 \* \* \*

1 §700.6. Termination date

2 The provisions of this Part shall terminate and have no effect after June 30,  
3 ~~2022~~: 2026.

4 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
8 effective on the day following such approval.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 61 Original

2022 Regular Session

Kerner

**Abstract:** Extends the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund and payments into the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund until June 30, 2026.

Present law creates the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund to pay compensation for damages suffered by a commercial fisherman as a result of hitting or snagging on an obstruction or a hazard in waters of the state resulting from natural occurrences, oil and gas activities, or other activities where the obstruction is unknown. Provides that payments into the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund will cease on June 30, 2022.

Proposed law extends payments into the Underwater Obstruction Removal Fund to June 30, 2026, and extends the existence of the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund to June 30, 2026.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 56:700.2(A)(4) and 700.6)