HLS 24RS-887 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Provides relative to saltwater and charter fishing licenses and fees

AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Section 6 of Act No. 356 of the 2021 Regular Session of the 3 Legislature and R.S. 56:3001(A)(4) and (5) and (B)(5) and (6), to enact R.S. 4 56:302.1 and 3001(A)(6) and (B)(7), and to repeal R.S. 56:3007(C), relative to 5 fishing; to require saltwater fishing licenses; to provide for terms and conditions of 6 the saltwater fishing license; to provide for charter fishing licenses; to provide for the 7 charter promotion fee, and to provide for related matters. 8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 9 Section 1. R.S. 56:3007(A)(4) and (5) and (B)(5) and (6) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:302.1 and 3001(A)(6) and (B)(7) are hereby enacted to read as 10 11 follows: 12 §302.1. Saltwater fishing; charter fishing 13 A. Any person fishing in the saltwater areas of the state defined in R.S. 14 56:322 must purchase and possess both a basic fishing license and a saltwater license 15 or an equivalent license that grants both basic fishing and saltwater fishing 16 privileges. 17 B. As a condition of the application for and the granting of the saltwater 18 license, all saltwater finfish caught or transported by the license holder while the 19 license is in effect are presumed to have been taken in the waters of Louisiana.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

| 1 | C. A person fishing with a licensed charter guide on board the vessel may | |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2 | purchase a Charter three-day fishing license in lieu of a basic annual recreational | |
| 3 | fishing license. | |
| 4 | D. In addition to the license fee assessed for any recreational charter fishing | |
| 5 | license, an amount equal to seven dollars and fifty cents shall be collected and | |
| 6 | deposited into the Charter Boat Fishing Fund pursuant to R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(f). | |
| 7 | E. A person may take or possess a freshwater species of fish while in the | |
| 8 | saltwater areas designated by R.S. 56:322(B) without the necessity of a saltwater | |
| 9 | license. The commission shall promulgate by rule the species of fish classified as | |
| 10 | freshwater species. While in saltwater areas, a person possessing fish other than | |
| 11 | those designated as freshwater species shall be required to possess either a saltwater | |
| 12 | fishing license or an equivalent license that grants both basic and saltwater fishing | |
| 13 | privileges. Any species of fish that is required to be returned to the water shall be | |
| 14 | returned immediately to the water without avoidable injury from which it was taken. | |
| 15 | An enforcement agent or officer of the department may inspect a fisherman's catch | |
| 16 | to ensure compliance with this Subsection. | |
| 17 | * * * | |
| 18 | §3001. Recreational fishing licenses; fees | |
| 19 | A. Resident licenses: | |
| 20 | * * * | |
| 21 | (4) Charter three-day saltwater fishing license | \$20.00 <u>\$12.50</u> |
| 22 | (5) Charter three-day freshwater fishing license | \$10.00 <u>\$2.50</u> |
| 23 | (6) Charter promotion fee | <u>\$7.50</u> |
| 24 | B. Nonresident licenses: | |
| 25 | * * * | |
| 26 | (5) Charter boat three-day saltwater fishing license | \$20.00 <u>\$12.50</u> |
| 27 | (6) Charter boat three-day freshwater fishing license | \$10.00 <u>\$2.50</u> |
| 28 | (7) Charter promotion fee | <u>\$7.50</u> |

- 1 Section 2. Section 6 of Act No. 356 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature
- 2 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
- 3 Section 6. R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(d), (6), 103(E) and (F), 103.1, 104, 105, 155, 156, 157,
- 4 164, 165, 166, 302.1, 302.2, 302.3, 302.4, 302.5, 302.6, 303.6(A)(2), 641.1, 642, 643, 646,
- 5 647.1, 649.5, 649.6, 650, 650.1, and 1832 are hereby repealed in their entirety.
- 6 Section 3. R.S. 56:3007(C) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

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)]

HB 543 Original

2024 Regular Session

Zeringue

Abstract: Authorizes saltwater fishing with a saltwater license or a charter boat fishing license and separates the charter promotion fund fee from the charter fishing license fee.

<u>Present law</u> provides for fishing licenses and fees, including saltwater licenses and charter guide fishing licenses for residents and nonresidents.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains the licenses that exist under <u>present law</u>.

<u>Present law</u> includes a \$20 fee for three-day saltwater charter fishing licenses and \$10 for three-day freshwater charter fishing licenses.

<u>Present law</u> further provides that \$7.50 must be collected for every charter fishing license sold to be deposited into the Charter Boat Fishing Fund for the purposes of promoting charter fishing, among other things.

<u>Present law</u> establishes a single fee for charter fishing licenses that includes this \$7.50 promotion fee.

<u>Proposed law</u> separates the \$7.50 charter promotion fee from the charter fishing license fee so that it can be put into an escrow account for promotional use pursuant to <u>present law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> reinstates provisions of prior law regarding the options available for licensing when saltwater fishing.

(Amends Act No. 356 of the 2021 R.S., §6 and R.S. 56:3001(A)(4) and (5) and (B)(5) and (6); Adds R.S. 56:302.1 and 3001(A)(6) and (B)(7); Repeals R.S. 56:3007(C))