

ACT No. 201

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 497

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:317(B)(1) and (2)(b) and (d) and (C), relative to the Louisiana
3 Catch and Cook Program; to allow charter boat captains to provide fish directly to
4 retail food establishments; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:317(B)(1) and (2)(b) and (d) and (C) are hereby amended and
7 reenacted to read as follows:

8 §317. Louisiana Catch and Cook Program; preparation of recreational fish or
9 alligator in retail food establishments

10 * * *

11 B.(1) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby
12 authorized to establish, manage, and promote, in conjunction with the Louisiana
13 Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, and
14 the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program,
15 whereby a retail food establishment is authorized to prepare any fish legally taken
16 by a licensed charter captain or a licensed recreational fisherman or any alligator
17 legally taken by a licensed alligator hunter for consumption by that charter boat
18 captain, recreational fisherman, or alligator hunter or any person in the charter boat
19 captain's, fisherman's, or hunter's party.

20 (2) The program shall be established through the promulgation and adoption
21 of rules and regulations in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and
22 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such rules and regulations
23 shall include but are not limited to the following which shall be enforced by
24 Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health:

25 * * *

1 (b) The retail food establishment shall receive only fish or alligator meat,
2 within individual fishing limits, that has been cleaned, filleted, placed in clean,
3 food-grade, single-service packaging, labeled, and properly refrigerated.

4 * * *

5 (d) The fish or alligator shall be properly labeled with the date; and time the
6 fish or alligator are caught, and the full name and address of the licensed charter
7 captain, recreational fisherman, or alligator hunter.

8 * * *

9 C. Any retail food establishment or licensed charter captain that wishes to
10 participate in the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program shall apply to the Department
11 of Wildlife and Fisheries to be issued a participation permit by the department.
12 There shall be no fee for the ~~application process or~~ permit. The permit may be
13 suspended or revoked by the department for any violation of the rules and
14 regulations of this program. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall provide
15 the name and location of each participating retail food establishment to the Louisiana
16 Department of Health, office of public health, upon request.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____