

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 653

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

SEAFOOD: Adds two members to the Oyster Task Force appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:421(B)(5) through (15), (C), and (E)(4) and to enact R.S.
3 56:421(B)(16), relative to the Oyster Task Force; to add two members appointed by
4 the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to the task force;
5 to add the Department of Agriculture and Forestry as an entity that receives
6 recommendations from the task force relative to the oyster industry; and to provide
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 56:421(B)(5) through (15), (C), and (E)(4) are hereby amended and
10 reenacted and R.S. 56:421(B)(16) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §421. Oyster Task Force

12 * * *

13 B. The task force shall be composed as follows:

14 * * *

15 (5) Two members appointed by the commissioner of the Department of
16 Agriculture and Forestry.

17 ~~(5)~~ (6) Four members appointed by the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and
18 Growers Association. Two members appointed under the provisions of this
19 Paragraph shall be selected at-large. Of the other two members, one shall be from

1 Jefferson Parish and one shall be selected from either Lafourche or Terrebonne
2 Parish.

3 ~~(6)~~ (7) Two members appointed by the Plaquemines Oyster Association.

4 ~~(7)~~ (8) One member appointed by the Terrebonne Oyster Association.

5 ~~(8)~~ (9) One member appointed by the Cameron Parish police jury who is a
6 properly licensed oyster harvester with documented commercial landings of oysters
7 from Calcasieu Lake, or a properly licensed seafood dealer with documented
8 commercial purchases of oysters from Calcasieu Lake during the current or
9 preceding license year of appointment as per records of the Department of Wildlife
10 and Fisheries.

11 ~~(9)~~ (10) One member appointed by the Southwest Pass Oyster Leaseholder
12 Association.

13 ~~(10)~~ (11) Two members appointed by the United Commercial Fisherman's
14 Association.

15 ~~(11)~~ (12) One member appointed by the Delta Commercial Fisherman's
16 organization.

17 ~~(12)~~ (13) One member who has voting authority and is an oyster grower
18 appointed by the president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

19 ~~(13)~~ (14) One member appointed by the Louisiana Oyster Aquaculture
20 Association.

21 ~~(14)~~ (15) One member appointed by the executive director of the Coastal
22 Protection and Restoration Authority.

23 ~~(15)~~ (16) One member appointed by the Louisiana Oystermen Association.

24 C. The members appointed under the provisions of Paragraphs (B)(1)
25 through ~~(4)~~ (5) and ~~(14)~~ (16) of this Section shall be nonvoting members. However,
26 they shall be considered members of the task force for determination of the number
27 of members necessary for a quorum and for establishing the presence of a quorum.

28 * * *

1 E. The task force is hereby charged with the responsibility to do the
2 following:

3 * * *

4 (4) Make recommendations with respect to issues pertaining to the oyster
5 industry and oyster production to the various state agencies charged with
6 responsibility for differing elements of the oyster industry in this state, including the
7 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry,
8 the Department of Conservation and Energy, the Coastal Protection and Restoration
9 Authority Board, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Louisiana
10 Department of Health, the governor's executive assistant for coastal activities, and
11 the legislature.

12 * * *

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 653 Original 2026 Regular Session Bayham

Abstract: Adds two members to the Oyster Task Force appointed by the commissioner of Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law provides for the establishment of the Oyster Task Force and provides for membership appointments.

Proposed law provides for two additional members to be appointed by the commissioner of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry. Specifies that the additional members are nonvoting members. Adds the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry as an entity that receives recommendations from the task force pertaining to the oyster industry and production.

(Amends R.S. 56:421(B)(5)-(15), (C), and (E)(4); Adds R.S. 56:421(B)(16))