

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 770

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON

FISHING/OYSTERS: Decreases the term of oyster leases on state water bottoms

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:428(A) and (B), relative to oyster leases on state water
3 bottoms; to reduce the term of state water bottom oyster leases; to provide for
4 prospective application; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:428(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §428. Commencement and duration of lease; renewal; fixing of rental rates

9 A. All leases made under the provisions of this Subpart shall begin on the
10 day the lease is signed and continue for a period of ~~fifteen~~ five years. The owners
11 of expiring leases have first right of renewal of their leases. However, this right to
12 renewal shall be subject to the provisions of this Subpart. Leases carry the first right
13 of renewal for successive periods of ~~fifteen~~ five years each, provided the lease is
14 capable of supporting oyster populations. Renewals shall be executed by the
15 secretary and shall be made subject to both the provisions of this Subpart and to the
16 rules and regulations established by the department.

17 B. The secretary has sixty days from the date of expiration of a lease to
18 execute a renewal lease. If a renewal lease is not executed within this sixty-day
19 period, the lease is automatically renewed. In either situation, the ~~fifteen-year~~ five-
20 year period of the renewal lease shall begin on the first day following the expiration

