

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 497

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FISHING: Provides for the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program

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 Charter Boat Association and the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the Louisiana
14 Catch and Cook Program, whereby a retail food establishment is authorized to
15 prepare any fish legally taken by a licensed charter captain or a licensed recreational
16 fisherman or any alligator legally taken by a licensed alligator hunter for
17 consumption by that charter boat captain, recreational fisherman₂ or alligator hunter
18 or any person in the charter boat captain's, fisherman's₂ or hunter's party.

19 (2) The program shall be established through the promulgation and adoption
20 of rules and regulations in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and

1 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such rules and regulations
2 shall include but are not limited to the following which shall be enforced by
3 Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health:

4 * * *

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

8 * * *

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

12 * * *

13 C. Any retail food establishment or licensed charter captain that wishes to
14 participate in the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program shall apply to the Department
15 of Wildlife and Fisheries to be issued a participation permit by the department.
16 There shall be ~~no~~ an annual twenty dollar fee for the ~~application process~~ or permit
17 to be retained by the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program to be spent on the
18 promotion of the program. The permit may be suspended or revoked by the
19 department for any violation of the rules and regulations of this program. The
20 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall provide the name and location of each
21 participating retail food establishment and charter boat captain to the Louisiana
22 Department of Health, office of public health, upon request.

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 497 Original

2025 Regular Session

LaCombe

Abstract: Authorizes charter boat captains to provide fish directly to retail food establishments under the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program.

Present law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish the La. Catch and Cook Program to allow retail food establishments to prepare fish from

licensed recreational fishermen or alligator from licensed alligator hunters or from anyone in their party.

Proposed law adds the management and promotion of the program of the dept. in conjunction with the La. Charter Boat Assoc. and La. Restaurant Assoc. and adds licensed charter captains or anyone in their party to the list of who can provide fish to restaurants.

Present law specifies that restaurants can only receive fish or alligator meat that has been cleaned, packaged, and refrigerated.

Proposed law adds that the fish or meat must be within fishing limits and must be labeled in addition to cleaned, packaged, and refrigerated.

Present law requires the labels include the date, time, and name of the fisherman or hunter.

Proposed law adds specificity regarding the date and time to include that it provide when the fish or alligator are caught and requires the address of the captain, fisherman, or hunter.

Present law specifies that no fee is required to participate in the program.

Proposed law modifies present law by adding a \$25 annual fee for participation to be spent on promotion of the program.

(Amends R.S. 56:317(B)(1) and (2)(b) and (d) and (C))