Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 296

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREENE

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

WILDLIFE/HABITAT: Provides for certain uses for monies in the Artificial Reef Development Fund

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:639.8(E)(3), relative to the Artificial Reef Development Fund; to allow the monies in said fund to be used by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for inshore fisheries habitat enhancement projects; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:639.8(E)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§639.8. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Artificial Reef Development Fund

* * *

E.

* * *

(3) In addition to the expenditures authorized in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Subsection, an amount not to exceed ten percent of the funds deposited to the fund each year and ten percent of the interest income to the fund may be used by the department to provide funding for inshore fisheries habitat enhancement projects, particularly in support of the Artificial Reef Development Program established by the department. Such funding may be used for grants to nonprofit conservation organizations working in cooperation with the department.

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Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

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by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

Greene HB No. 296

Abstract: Authorizes the use of monies in the Artificial Reef Development Fund for inshore fisheries habitat enhancement projects.

Present law established the Artificial Reef Development Fund. Provides that monies in the fund are to be used for the operation of the artificial reef program in the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, including permitting, establishing, monitoring, and maintenance of the artificial reefs.

Proposed law would allow up to 10% of the annual donations and interest income from the fund to be used by the department to provide funding for inshore fisheries habitat enhancement projects, particularly in support of the Artificial Reef Program. Provides that such funding may be used for grants to nonprofit conservation organizations working in cooperation with the department.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 56:639.8(E)(3))

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