DIGEST

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Leger HB No. 501

Abstract: Amends and repeals certain provisions relative to bar pilots for the Port of New Orleans.

Present law provides that bar pilots may, for the furtherance of their interest, form themselves into a voluntary private association or partnership.

Proposed law retains present law and adds corporations and limited liability companies.

Present law (R.S. 34:950) requires every bar pilot to own or be a part owner of at least one decked pilot boat of not less than 50 tons burden. Present law further provides that the pilot can be suspended and the governor may revoke his commission for noncompliance with present law.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 34:951) requires pilot boats, when cruising, to exhibit from the foremast head, from sunset to sunrise, a bright white light, visible all round the horizon for a distance of five miles, and exhibit a search light every 15 minutes. Present law also requires pilot boats to exhibit, from sunrise to sunset, a blue-peter from the main top-mast head. Present law exempts boats that have boarded out all their pilots.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 34:952) requires all pilot boats to cruise seaward on a radius of five nautical miles from the several entrances of the Mississippi River or from any other waterways connecting the Gulf of Mexico or other outside waters with the Port of New Orleans.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 34:954) provides that Associated Branch Pilots (bar pilots) of the Port of New Orleans shall be entitled to charge and receive pilotage at the rate of $6.75 per foot of water drawn by any ship or vessel piloted by them, provided that any ship drawing less than 10 feet shall pay on the basis of a minimum of 10 feet. Present law further provides that Associated Branch Pilots (bar pilots) of the Port of New Orleans shall also be entitled to enter into agreements with the masters or owners of ships and vessels for special services and the hire of boats and equipment, and the like, at such rates and for such sums as may be agreed between them.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 34:965) prohibits members of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans from having an interest, directly or indirectly, in any bar pilot boat or pilotage.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 34:963; Repeals R.S. 34:950, 951, 952, 954, and 965)