

SENATE BILL NO. 670

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:302.9(A) and 302.9.1(A), relative to charter boat and charter
3 boat fishing guides; to provide for licensing requirements; to provide for proof of
4 liability insurance; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:302.9(A) and 302.9.1(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to
7 read as follows:

8 §302.9. Charter boat fishing guide license; nonresident fee

9 A.(1) No person shall act as nor shall he represent himself to be a saltwater
10 charter boat fishing guide unless that person has in his name a valid state charter boat
11 fishing guide license, a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast
12 Guard, **proof of liability insurance**, and a valid state recreational fishing license, or
13 in lieu of a state recreational fishing license, the person was born prior to June 1,
14 1940, or has a valid senior hunting and fishing license issued pursuant to R.S.
15 56:302.1(G). In addition, any person acting as a saltwater charter boat fishing guide
16 who is in charge of the operation of a vessel shall have his required licenses **and**
17 **proof of liability insurance** on his person while on the water. It shall not be a
18 violation of this Section for a person to represent himself as a charter boat fishing
19 guide if that person held a valid license during the previous thirty days but has not
20 renewed the license.

21 (2) **The liability insurance required by this Subsection shall be written**
22 **by an insurance company with at least an A- rating in the latest printing of the**
23 **A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide and in a sufficient amount to protect the public**
24 **as determined by the commission.**

25 (3) The nonresident charter boat fishing guide license shall be available only
26 from the Baton Rouge office of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Such
27 licenses shall be issued on a consignment basis, and no agent fees shall apply. A

nonresident charter boat fishing guide license shall ~~only~~ be made available only to those persons who possess a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard.

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§302.9.1. Charter boat license; skiff fee; charter fishing trip license

A. For a charter fishing operation which does not have a charter boat fishing guide present, a charter boat license shall be required. Such license shall be for a charter fishing operation which consists of a large motorized vessel carrying small skiffs attached to it with such skiffs to be used by no more than two people for fishing purposes. The main motorized vessel shall be required to carry a charter boat license; **and proof of liability insurance**, and the captain shall have a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard with the license on his person. For those vessels which carry up to six skiffs, the license fee shall be one thousand dollars per year. For those vessels which carry more than six skiffs, the license fee shall be two thousand dollars per year. No main motorized vessel licensed under the provisions of this Section shall enter any wildlife management area managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. **The liability insurance required by this Subsection shall meet the requirement of R.S. 56:302.9(A)(2).**

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____