
DIGEST

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HB 307 Original

2016 Regular Session

Zeringue

Abstract: Creates a charter boat fishing guide apprentice license and professionalism program.

Present law requires any person acting as a charter boat fishing guide to have a valid state charter boat fishing guide license. Provides relative to that license.

Proposed law limits the ability to qualify for a charter boat fishing guide license to those who held such license during license year 2016 or those who have successfully completed a professionalism program established by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Proposed law further creates a charter boat fishing guide apprentice license and provides for the following fees to enroll in the program:

For residents:

Vessels carrying up to six passengers	\$ 250
Vessels carrying more than six passengers	\$ 500
Deckhands	\$ 150

For nonresidents:

Vessels carrying up to six passengers	\$1,000
Vessels carrying more than six passengers	\$2,000
Deckhands	\$ 150

Proposed law requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a professionalism program for charter boat fishing guides including qualifications for obtaining a charter guide apprentice license, requirements for completion of the professionalism program, and requirements necessary for obtaining a charter fishing guide license. Requires the program to include education in conservation measures that ensure the health and sustainability of fishery resources; training for safety and best business practices, and may include other education and training deemed by the commission to be in the best interest of the industry, the resource, and the state. Requires a person enrolled in the professionalism program to have a charter boat fishing guide apprentice license. Provides that the licenses are valid from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st of the same calendar year.

Provides that violations are class four violations punishable as follows:

1st offense	between \$400 & \$950	or	imprisonment for more than 120 days, or both
2nd offense	between \$750 & \$999	&	imprisonment between 90 and

3rd or more offense between \$1,000 & \$5,000 & 180 days.
imprisonment between 180 days and
two years.

Provides forfeiture of anything seized in connection with the violation.

(Amends R.S. 56:302.9(B); Adds R.S. 56:302.9(J) and 302.9.2)