

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 835

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN

WILDLIFE/MGT AREAS: Establishes a charter guide wildlife management area access permit

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:302.9(H) through (J) and to enact R.S. 56:302.9(K), relative  
3 to charter guide wildlife management area access permits; to create an annual charter  
4 guide wildlife management area access permit; to establish a fee for the permit; to  
5 provide for the privileges conveyed by the permit; to provide for an effective date;  
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 56:302.9(H) through (J) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9 56:302.9(K) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §302.9. Charter boat fishing guide license; nonresident fee

11 \* \* \*

12 H. A charter boat fishing guide licensee performing for-hire fishing guide  
13 activity within a WMA may purchase a Charter Guide WMA Access Permit. This  
14 permit satisfies the WMA access permit requirements for the charter fishing guide  
15 and his clients when engaged in a for-hire fishing trip within a WMA. The fee for  
16 the Charter Guide WMA Access Permit shall be one hundred dollars. The permit is  
17 valid for one year, beginning on January first of each calendar year and expiring on  
18 December thirty-first of the same calendar year.

19 I. Each charter boat fishing guide licensee may complete a landing report and  
20 return the report to the department at the time and manner designated by the

1 commission. The commission shall establish the information to be provided in the  
2 landing report by the charter boat fishing guide licensee. The landing report may  
3 include information on the number of trips taken, number of anglers fishing on a trip,  
4 area fished, time fished, trip origin, any information determined by the commission  
5 to be necessary to properly manage the fishery resource of the state, and any  
6 information required by the commission to prepare stock assessments. However, the  
7 commission shall not request any financial information. The information provided  
8 by a licensee shall be maintained as confidential in accordance with R.S. 56:301.4.  
9 The commission shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the  
10 Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Subsection.

11 ~~I. Except for Subsection H, a violation of any provision of this Section shall~~  
12 ~~constitute a class four violation, R.S. 56:34.~~

13 J. Penalties.

14 (1) Except for Subsection I of this Section, a violation of any provision of  
15 this Section shall constitute a class four violation subject to the penalties of R.S.  
16 56:34.

17 (2) In addition to any other penalty provided for in this Section, for any  
18 person convicted of a first offense of violating Subsection A or B of this Section, the  
19 offender shall pay a fine of no less than one thousand dollars to the Department of  
20 Wildlife and Fisheries. For any person convicted of a second offense of violating  
21 Subsection A or B of this Section, the offender may only operate a vessel that  
22 employs a vessel monitoring system for three years after the date of the conviction.  
23 For any person convicted of a third or subsequent offense of violating Subsection A  
24 or B of this Section, the offender may only operate a vessel that employs a vessel  
25 monitoring system for ten years after the date of the conviction.

26 ~~(2)~~ (3) Whenever an offender is required to employ a vessel monitoring  
27 system, access to the monitoring system shall be granted to the department, and the  
28 offender shall notify the department on which vessel or vessels the offender will be  
29 operating for commercial or recreational use. Any person required to be on board

1 a vessel with an approved vessel monitoring system shall comply with all rules and  
 2 regulations promulgated by the department or the commission to ensure compliance  
 3 with vessel monitoring system requirements. The cost of a vessel monitoring system  
 4 shall be the responsibility of the offender. The department shall approve the vessel  
 5 monitoring system for use pursuant to this Section.

6 ~~(3)~~ (4) Any charter guide or individual posing as a charter guide required to  
 7 operate a vessel with an approved vessel monitoring system who is found operating  
 8 any vessel that is not equipped with such a system, for commercial or recreational  
 9 purposes, may have their charter guide license suspended and may be prohibited  
 10 from obtaining such a license for the remainder of the year in which the person was  
 11 found not abiding by the vessel monitoring requirement. In addition, the violator  
 12 shall be sentenced to perform no less than forty hours of community service. If  
 13 available, the hours shall be served in a litter abatement community service program.

14 ~~(4)~~ K. The department shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with  
 15 the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section.

16 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 17 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 18 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 19 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 20 effective on the day following such approval.

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#### 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)]

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HB 835 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Schamerhorn

**Abstract:** Establishes a charter guide wildlife management area (WMA) access permit for \$100 per year.

Present law authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to regulate and manage all wildlife management areas.

Present law prohibits commercial activity on WMAs.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law creates an annual charter guide WMA access permit to allow charter fishing guides to operate within WMAs.

Proposed law establishes a fee of \$100 for the charter guide WMA access permit.

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

(Amends R.S. 56:302.9(H)-(J); Adds R.S. 56:302.9(K))