
DIGEST

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HB 549 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Requires houseboats without motors to be registered and numbered with the registration fees to be used for a grant program to parish governments to remove derelict houseboats.

Proposed law defines "houseboat" as a vessel constructed for the primary purpose of a temporary or permanent dwelling without an effective means of propulsion for safe navigation.

Present law requires every motorboat or sailboat operated in state waters to be registered and numbered. Present law provides for the numbering system and application process for the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to issue a number and certificate of number. Along with the application, present law requires the owner to pay a fee based upon the length of the boat as follows:

- (1) \$20 for boats 14 ft. or less
- (2) \$25 for boats greater than 14 ft. and less than 18 ft.
- (3) \$30 for boats 18 ft. or greater plus \$2 for each foot or portion of a foot greater than 18 ft.

Present law provides for the department's records of numbering, the proper display of the number on the motorboat or sailboat, where the certificate of number must be located, and for boats numbered by another state or the federal government.

Present law requires a new application accompanied by a \$5 fee when there is a change in ownership.

Present law requires the owner to notify the commission of a transfer of any portion of ownership, the creation of a security interest, destruction, or abandonment of a boat within 15 days.

Proposed law makes motorboat and sailboat registration and numbering provisions in present law, including application fees, applicable to houseboats.

Present law requires the revenue collected from motorboat and sailboat registration fees be paid into the Conservation Fund to administer and enforce present law motorboat and vessel provisions.

Proposed law requires the revenue collected from houseboat registration fees be paid into the "derelict houseboat account" in the Conservation Fund.

Proposed law creates the derelict houseboat account and requires the funds in that account are to be

used solely for awarding grants to parish governments to remove any unattended, derelict, junked, or abandoned houseboat in any canal, coulee, drainage ditch, outfall canal, bayou, bay, lake, or any other waterway, whether navigable or not, or on the banks thereof within the state of Louisiana.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to provide for the application, administration, and award of such grants.

(Amends R.S. 34:851.19, 851.20(A)(1)(intro. para.), (2), (3), and (4) and (B), (C), (D), (G), and (J), 851.21(A) and (B)(2), (3), and (4) and 851.32; Adds R.S. 34:851.2(13) and R.S. 56:10(B)(14))