

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 549

2018 Regular Session

White

BOATS/SHIPS/VESSELS: Registration of non-motorized house boats

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes derelict houseboat account in the Conservation Fund to Derelict Houseboat Fund in the state treasury.
2. Provides that proposed law must be implemented by January 1, 2019.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 two dollars 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 five dollar 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 registration fees be paid into the state treasury to administer and enforce present law motorboat and vessel provisions.

Proposed law modifies present law to apply to sailboats. Specifies that a specific portion of registration fees after certain payment to the state, be paid into the Derelict Houseboat Fund instead of the Conservation Fund. Also, requires the revenue collected from houseboat registration fees be paid into the Derelict Houseboat Fund.

Proposed law creates the Derelict Houseboat Fund and requires the funds in that fund 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 La.

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

Proposed law provides for implementation by Jan. 1, 2019.

(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. 56:10.2)