

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 549

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 34:851.19, 851.20(A)(1)(introductory paragraph), (2), (3), and  
3 (4) and (B), (C), (D), (G), and (J), 851.21(A) and (B)(2), (3), and (4) and 851.32 and  
4 to enact R.S. 34:851.2(13) and R.S. 56:10.2, relative to houseboats; to provide for  
5 the registration and numbering of houseboats; to create the Derelict Houseboat Fund  
6 in the state treasury; to provide for the issuance of a certificate of number; to provide  
7 for registration fees; to provide for notices of transfer; to provide for a numbering  
8 system; to provide for the distribution of funds; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 34:851.19, 851.20(A)(1)(introductory paragraph), (2), (3), and (4)  
11 and (B), (C), (D), (G), and (J), 851.21(A) and (B)(2), (3), and (4) and 851.32 are hereby  
12 amended and reenacted and R.S. 34:851.2(13) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §851.2. Definitions

14 As used in this Part unless the context requires a different meaning:

15 \* \* \*

16 (13) "Houseboat" means a vessel constructed for the primary purpose of a  
17 temporary or permanent dwelling without an effective means of propulsion for safe  
18 navigation.

19 \* \* \*

20 §851.19. Operation of unnumbered motorboats, houseboat, or sailboats prohibited;  
21 exception

22 Every motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat operated on the waters of this state  
23 shall be numbered. No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of





1 to operate such motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat such transfer shall not terminate  
2 the certificate of number.

3 \* \* \*

4 J. No number other than the number awarded to a motorboat, houseboat, or  
5 sailboat or granted reciprocity pursuant to this Part shall be painted, attached, or  
6 otherwise displayed on either side of the bow of such motorboat, houseboat, or  
7 sailboat.

8 \* \* \*

9 §851.21. Numbering system

10 A. The motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat identification number issued by the  
11 commission pursuant to this Part shall be divided into parts which include a symbol  
12 indicating the state and a combination of numerals, letters, and words indicating the  
13 individual identification of the motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat. The group of three  
14 digits appearing between letters shall be separated from those letters by hyphens or  
15 equivalent spaces. Numbers shall be block characters not less than three inches in  
16 height and of a color to contrast on the hull, dark on light or light on dark or as  
17 otherwise provided by rules and regulations of the commission.

18 B.

19 \* \* \*

20 (2) The second part of the motorboat, houseboat, or sailboat number shall  
21 consist of not more than four Arabic numerals and not more than two capital letters  
22 as a suffix separated by a hyphen or equivalent space. Since the letters "I", "O", and  
23 "Q" may be mistaken for numerals, they shall not be used.

24 (3) Motorboats, houseboat, or sailboats for hire or rent shall have painted or  
25 attached to each side of the bow the word "HIRE" in letters of not less than one and  
26 one-half inches which shall appear below the awarded number.

27 (4) Motorboats, houseboat, or sailboats owned by the state or any of its  
28 political subdivisions shall have painted or attached to each side of the bow the word

1 "PUBLIC" in letters of not less than one and one-half inches which shall appear  
2 below the awarded number except when used for undercover or investigative work.

3 \* \* \*

4 §851.32. Disposition of funds

5 A. Funds accruing to the state of Louisiana from registration fees paid by  
6 owners of motorboats and sailboats shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be  
7 credited to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund. Out of the funds remaining in  
8 the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, after a sufficient amount is allocated from  
9 that fund to pay all obligations secured by the full faith and credit of the state which  
10 become due and payable within any fiscal year, the treasurer shall, prior to placing  
11 such remaining funds in the State General Fund, pay into the ~~Conservation Fund~~  
12 Derelict Houseboat Fund of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission an  
13 amount equal to the total amount of the sums recovered as registration fees in R.S.  
14 34:851.20 and ~~R.S. 34:851.23~~ of this Part for the purpose of administering and  
15 enforcing the provisions of this Part or for such other purposes as may be determined  
16 by said commission.

17 B. The revenues derived from the registration fees paid into the Derelict  
18 Houseboat Fund pursuant to Subsection A of this Section shall be made available for  
19 the purpose of providing the necessary additional funds for the administration and  
20 enforcement of the provisions of this Part or for such other purposes as may be  
21 determined by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

22 C. Funds accruing to the state of Louisiana from registration fees paid by  
23 owners of houseboats shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be credited to the  
24 Bond Security and Redemption Fund. Out of the funds remaining in the Bond  
25 Security and Redemption Fund, after a sufficient amount is allocated from that fund  
26 to pay all obligations secured by the full faith and credit of the state which become  
27 due and payable within any fiscal year, the treasurer shall pay into the Derelict  
28 Houseboat Fund an amount equal to the total amount of the sums recovered as  
29 registration fees in R.S. 34:851.20 of this Part.

1 Section 2. R.S. 56:10.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §10.2. Derelict Houseboat Fund

3 There is hereby created a fund within the state treasury known as the  
4 "Derelict Houseboat Fund" which shall consist of those revenues collected from the  
5 registration of houseboats provided for in R.S. 34:851.32(C). The revenues shall be  
6 subject to the same requirements as provided for other revenues placed in the  
7 Conservation Fund in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. The monies in this fund  
8 shall be used solely for the purpose of awarding grants to parish governments to  
9 remove any unattended, derelict, junked, or abandoned houseboat in any canal,  
10 coulee, drainage ditch, outfall canal, bayou, bay, lake, or any other waterway,  
11 whether navigable or not, or on the banks thereof within the state of Louisiana. The  
12 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may promulgate rules and regulations in  
13 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to provide for the application,  
14 administration, and award of such grants.

15 Section 3. This Act shall be implemented by January 1, 2019.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_