

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 503

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 34:852.3(A)(introductory paragraph) and 852.13(A) and (B),
3 relative to hull identification numbers; to provide for hull identification number
4 requirements; to remove the requirement that the Department of Wildlife and
5 Fisheries provide hull identification numbers for certain vessels; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 34:852.3(A)(introductory paragraph) and 852.13(A) and (B) are
9 hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §852.3. Certificate of title authorized

11 A. ~~Upon the implementation of this Part, any~~ Any person who purchases or
12 possesses either of the following to be principally operated on the waters of this state
13 and not held as inventory for sale or lease ~~or a manufacturer eligible for hull number~~
14 ~~assignment pursuant to R.S. 34:852.13(B) who manufactures either of the following~~
15 ~~held as inventory~~ may apply to the department for a certificate of title for the
16 following:

17 * * *

18 §852.13. Hull identification number requirement; prohibitions

19 A. Each vessel shall have a hull identification number assigned and affixed.
20 The department shall assign a hull identification number to an undocumented vessel
21 not having a hull identification number at the time of numbering or application for
22 a certificate of title after transfer of ownership or change of state of principal
23 operation. ~~Such vessels not assigned a hull identification number pursuant to~~
24 ~~Subsection B of this Section shall be assigned such number using the procedure set~~

1 ~~forth in R.S. 34:851.20(M)(1) and (2). Hull identification numbers issued by the~~
2 ~~department shall be for identification purposes only and shall not guarantee the~~
3 ~~seaworthiness or certify compliance with safety standards as required by the United~~
4 ~~States Coast Guard.~~

5 B. Such vessels shall be assigned a hull identification number using the
6 ~~procedure set forth in R.S. 34:851.20(M). Hull identification numbers issued by the~~
7 ~~department shall be for identification purposes only and shall not guarantee the~~
8 ~~seaworthiness or certify compliance with safety standards as required by the United~~
9 ~~States Coast Guard. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations~~
10 ~~providing for the assigning of hull identification numbers to undocumented vessels~~
11 ~~manufactured in this state that do not qualify for the assignment of such number by~~
12 ~~the United States Coast Guard. Such rules and regulations shall, at a minimum,~~
13 ~~provide for the following:~~

14 ~~(1) Eligibility requirements for manufacturers that shall include a minimum~~
15 ~~number of vessels manufactured per year and the posting of a bond, letter of credit,~~
16 ~~or other security to provide funds in the event of abandonment, default, violation, or~~
17 ~~other inability of the manufacturer to meet the requirements of the department.~~

18 ~~(2) Reporting requirements and record keeping by the manufacturer.~~

19 ~~(3) Inspections of records, the manufacturer's facility, and vessels.~~

20 ~~(4) A fee of up to twenty-five dollars per hull number assigned may be~~
21 ~~charged by the department.~~

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____