

# ACT No. 442

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 661

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:302.9(A)(1) and (2) and (J)(1) and to enact R.S. 56:301.10(B)(10) and (11), relative to charter boat fishing guides; to require commercial marine insurance for charter boat fishing guides; to provide for penalties; to provide for the membership of the Louisiana Finfish Task Force; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:302.9(A)(1) and (2) and (J)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:301.10(B)(10) and (11) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§301.10. Louisiana Finfish Task Force

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B. The task force shall be composed as follows:

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(10) One member appointed by the governor to be selected from a list of two nominees submitted by the Louisiana Charter Boat Association.

(11) One member appointed by the governor to be selected from a list of two nominees submitted by the Women's Southern Fisheries Alliance.

\* \* \*

1 §302.9. Charter boat fishing guide license; nonresident fee

2 A.(1)(a) No person shall act as nor represent himself to be a saltwater charter  
 3 boat fishing guide unless that person possesses a valid state charter boat fishing  
 4 guide license, a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard, proof  
 5 of ~~liability~~ commercial marine insurance, and a valid state recreational fishing  
 6 license that grants fishing privileges appropriate for his charter activity. In addition,  
 7 any person acting as a saltwater charter boat fishing guide who is in charge of the  
 8 operation of a vessel shall have his required licenses and proof of ~~liability~~  
 9 commercial marine insurance on his person while on the water. It shall not be a  
 10 violation of this Section for a person to represent himself as a charter boat fishing  
 11 guide if that person held a valid license during the previous thirty days but has not  
 12 renewed the license.

13 (b) No person shall act as or represent himself to be a freshwater charter boat  
 14 fishing guide unless that person possesses a valid state charter boat fishing guide  
 15 license, proof of ~~liability~~ commercial marine insurance, and a valid state recreational  
 16 fishing license that grants fishing privileges appropriate for his charter activity. In  
 17 addition, any person acting as a freshwater charter boat fishing guide who is in  
 18 charge of the operation of a vessel shall have his required licenses and proof of  
 19 ~~liability~~ commercial marine insurance on his person while on the water. It shall not  
 20 be a violation of this Section for a person to represent himself as a charter boat  
 21 fishing guide if that person held a valid license during the previous thirty days but  
 22 has not renewed the license. The department shall provide written notification to the  
 23 holder of a license issued pursuant to this Subparagraph that the holder may be  
 24 subject to other requirements of law, including holding a valid captain's license  
 25 issued by the United States Coast Guard.

26 (2) The ~~liability~~ commercial marine insurance required by this Subsection  
 27 shall be written by an insurance company with at least an A- rating in the latest  
 28 printing of the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide and in a sufficient amount to protect  
 29 the public as determined by the commission.

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J.(1) In addition to any other penalty provided for in ~~the~~ this Section, for any person convicted of a first offense of violating Subsection A or B of this Section, the offender shall pay a fine of no less than one thousand dollars to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. ~~For~~ for any person convicted of a second offense of violating Subsection A or B of this Section, the offender may only operate a vessel that employs a vessel monitoring system for the three years after the date of the conviction. For any person convicted of a third or subsequent offense of violating Subsection A or B of this Section, the offender may only operate a vessel that employs a vessel monitoring system for ten years after the date of the conviction.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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