

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 653

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

SEAFOOD: Provides for membership of the Oyster Task Force

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:421(B)(10) and (E)(4), relative to the Oyster Task Force; to
3 provide for the membership of the task force; to add the Department of Agriculture
4 and Forestry as an entity that receives recommendations from the task force relative
5 to the oyster industry; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:421(B)(10) and (E)(4) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
8 as follows:

9 §421. Oyster Task Force

10 * * *

11 B. The task force shall be composed as follows:

12 * * *

13 (10) Two members appointed by the United Commercial Fisherman's
14 Association, one of whom shall be a resident of St. Bernard Parish.

15 * * *

16 E. The task force is hereby charged with the responsibility to do the
17 following:

18 * * *

19 (4) Make recommendations with respect to issues pertaining to the oyster
20 industry and oyster production to the various state agencies charged with

1 responsibility for differing elements of the oyster industry in this state, including the
 2 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry,
 3 the Department of Conservation and Energy, the Coastal Protection and Restoration
 4 Authority Board, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Louisiana
 5 Department of Health, the governor's executive assistant for coastal activities, and
 6 the legislature.

7 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 653 Engrossed

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Abstract: Provides that one of the two members appointed to the Oyster Task Force by the United Commercial Fisherman's Association be a resident of St. Bernard Parish and that the task force make recommendations to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Present law provides for the establishment of the Oyster Task Force and provides for membership appointments.

Proposed law provides that one of the two existing appointments made by the United Commercial Fisherman's Association be a resident of St. Bernard Parish.

Present law provides the task force with responsibility to make recommendations relative to the oyster industry to state agencies with responsibilities related to the oyster industry.

Proposed law adds the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to the list of agencies to whom the task force makes recommendations.

(Amends R.S. 56:421(B)(10) and (E)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Remove the provision for additional appointments made by the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.
2. Add a provision that one of the two existing appointments made by the United Commercial Fisherman's Association be a resident of St. Bernard Parish.
3. Make technical changes.