HLS 13RS-635 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 480

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BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Moves responsibility for regulation of seismic activity from the office of fisheries to the office of wildlife within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 36:609(B)(2) and (C)(1), relative to the powers, duties,
3	functions, and responsibilities of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; to
4	provide that regulation of seismic operations be the responsibility of the office of
5	wildlife; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 36:609(B)(2) and (C)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
8	as follows:
9	§609. Offices; purposes and functions
10	* * *
11	B. The office of wildlife shall:
12	* * *
13	(2) Perform the functions of the state relative to the administration,
14	operation, and law enforcement of programs, including research, related to the
15	Louisiana Natural Areas Registry; natural and scenic rivers; the regulation of seismic
16	operations, and water pollution control and prevention and review and monitoring
17	of activities occurring in the coastal zone and wetland areas as shall be delegated or
18	assigned to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or any of the agencies
19	transferred to said department by law.
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C. The office of fisheries shall:

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(1) Perform the functions of the state relating to administration and operation programs, including research, relating to saltwater fisheries, water bottoms, and seafoods, including but not limited to the regulation of the oyster, shrimp, and marine fishing industries, the leasing of and regulations of the use of water bottoms for cultivation and propagation of oysters, mariculture, and the dredging of sand, gravel, and fill materials, the regulation of seismic operations, the licensing of vessels engaged in the industry, establishing and maintaining oyster seed grounds, the control of the shrimp fishery and shrimp industry in the state and the licensing of persons engaged therein, and the collection of the severance tax on shrimp, oysters, sand, gravel, and fill materials severed from state water bottoms.

* * *

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)]

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<u>Proposed law</u> moves responsibility for regulation of seismic operations $\underline{\text{from}}$ the office of fisheries $\underline{\text{to}}$ the office of wildlife.

<u>Present law</u>, in pertinent part, provides that the office of fisheries is responsible for the regulation of seismic operations.

(Amends R.S. 36:609(B)(2) and (C)(1))