

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 307

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

FISHING: Establishes a fishing guide apprentice program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:302.9(B) and to enact R.S. 56:302.9(J) and 302.9.2, relative  
3 to charter boat fishing guide licenses; to provide relative to qualifications for  
4 application for a charter boat fishing guide license; to require the Wildlife and  
5 Fisheries Commission to establish a charter guide apprentice program; to create a  
6 charter boat fishing guide apprentice license; to provide for fees for such license; to  
7 provide relative to qualifications for the charter fishing guide apprentice license; and  
8 to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 56:302.9(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:302.9(J)  
11 and 302.9.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §302.9. Charter boat fishing guide license; nonresident fee

13 \* \* \*

14 B. ~~A nonresident fishing from a vessel operated by a licensed charter boat~~  
15 ~~fishing guide shall possess a valid license to fish in the saltwater areas of the state.~~  
16 ~~Each nonresident shall possess a valid out-of-state motor vehicle operator's license~~  
17 ~~or such other proof of residency as the department may require. Beginning January~~  
18 1, 2017, and applicable to license year 2017 and thereafter, no person shall be issued  
19 a charter boat fishing guide license unless that person qualifies under one or both of  
20 the following provisions:



1 name a valid Louisiana charter boat fishing guide apprentice license and a valid state  
2 recreational fishing license, or in lieu of a state recreational fishing license, the  
3 person was born prior to June 1, 1940, or has a valid senior hunting and fishing  
4 license issued pursuant to R.S. 56:302.1(G). In addition, any person acting as a  
5 saltwater charter boat fishing guide or apprentice who is in charge of the operation  
6 of a vessel shall have his required licenses and proof of liability insurance on his  
7 person while on the water.

8 C.(1) The annual fee for a resident charter boat fishing guide apprentice  
9 license for operating a vessel that carries not more than six passengers is two  
10 hundred fifty dollars and five hundred dollars for operating a vessel that carries more  
11 than six passengers. For any resident deckhand who wants to enroll in the program,  
12 the annual fee is one hundred fifty dollars.

13 (2) The annual fee for a nonresident charter boat fishing guide apprentice  
14 license for operating a vessel that carries not more than six passengers is one  
15 thousand dollars and two thousand dollars for operating a vessel that carries more  
16 than six passengers. For any nonresident deckhand who wants to enroll in the  
17 program, the annual fee is one hundred fifty dollars.

18 D. A charter boat fishing guide apprentice license is valid for one year,  
19 beginning on January first of each calendar year and expiring on December  
20 thirty-first of the same calendar year.

21 E. A charter boat fishing guide apprentice license may be purchased at any  
22 time of the year for the current license year and from November fifteenth for the  
23 immediately following license year.

24 F. A charter boat fishing guide apprentice license shall be issued by the  
25 department during normal working hours and may be purchased in person at the  
26 Baton Rouge office, or at any other location designated by the department.

27 G. The information provided by a licensee shall be maintained as  
28 confidential in accordance with R.S. 56:301.4.

1                    H. A violation of any provision of this Section shall constitute a class four  
2                    violation, R.S. 56:34.

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 307 Original

2016 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Creates a charter boat fishing guide apprentice license and professionalism program.

Present law requires any person acting as a charter boat fishing guide to have a valid state charter boat fishing guide license. Provides relative to that license.

Proposed law limits the ability to qualify for a charter boat fishing guide license to those who held such license during license year 2016 or those who have successfully completed a professionalism program established by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Proposed law further creates a charter boat fishing guide apprentice license and provides for the following fees to enroll in the program:

For residents:		
Vessels carrying up to six passengers		\$ 250
Vessels carrying more than six passengers		\$ 500
Deckhands		\$ 150
For nonresidents:		
Vessels carrying up to six passengers		\$1,000
Vessels carrying more than six passengers		\$2,000
Deckhands		\$ 150

Proposed law requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a professionalism program for charter boat fishing guides including qualifications for obtaining a charter guide apprentice license, requirements for completion of the professionalism program, and requirements necessary for obtaining a charter fishing guide license. Requires the program to include education in conservation measures that ensure the health and sustainability of fishery resources; training for safety and best business practices, and may include other education and training deemed by the commission to be in the best interest of the industry, the resource, and the state. Requires a person enrolled in the professionalism program to have a charter boat fishing guide apprentice license. Provides that the licenses are valid from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st of the same calendar year.

Provides that violations are class four violations punishable as follows:

1st offense	between \$400 & \$950	or	imprisonment for more than 120 days, or both
2nd offense	between \$750 & \$999	&	imprisonment between 90 and 180 days.
3rd or more offense	between \$1,000 & \$5,000	&	imprisonment between 180 days and two years.

Provides forfeiture of anything seized in connection with the violation.

(Amends R.S. 56:302.9(B); Adds R.S. 56:302.9(J) and 302.9.2)