

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 784

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCFARLAND, BISHOP, AND REYNOLDS

BOATS/SHIPS/VESSELS: Increases boat registration fees

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 34:851.20(A)(1) and 851.32 and R.S. 56:10.1(C), relative to
3 motorboats and sailboats; to provide for boat registration and numbering; to provide
4 for fees; to provide for the dedication of revenue; to provide for the Aquatic Plant
5 Control Fund; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 34:851.20(A)(1) and 851.32 are hereby amended and reenacted to
8 read as follows:

9 §851.20. Identification number

10 A.(1) The owner of each motorboat or sailboat requiring numbering by this
11 state shall file an application for number with the Department of Wildlife and
12 Fisheries on forms approved by it. The application shall be signed by the owner of
13 the motorboat or sailboat and shall be accompanied by a the appropriate fee as
14 follows:

15 (a) For a boat ~~which~~ that is fourteen feet or less in length, the fee shall be
16 twenty dollars.

17 (b) For a boat ~~which~~ that is more than fourteen feet and less than eighteen
18 feet in length, the fee shall be twenty-five dollars.

19 (c) For a boat ~~which~~ that is eighteen feet in length or greater, the fee shall be
20 thirty dollars plus an additional two dollars for each foot or portion of a foot in
21 length greater than eighteen feet.

1 (d) Until August 1, 2023, in addition to the fee otherwise required by this

2 Paragraph, a fee of nine dollars shall accompany an application for numbering a

3 motorboat or sailboat.

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§851.32. Disposition of funds

A.(1) Funds accruing to the state of Louisiana from registration fees paid by owners of motorboats and sailboats shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be credited to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund. Out of the funds remaining in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, after a sufficient amount is allocated from that fund to pay all obligations secured by the full faith and credit of the state which become due and payable within any fiscal year, the treasurer shall, prior to placing such remaining funds in the State General Fund, pay into the Conservation Fund of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission an amount equal to the total amount, less the amounts provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, of the sums recovered as registration fees in R.S. 34:851.20 and R.S. 34:851.23 of this Part for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of this Part or for such other purposes as may be determined by said commission.

(2) The treasurer shall pay an amount equal to nine dollars of every fee collected for registering a motorboat and sailboat pursuant to R.S. 34:851.20(A)(1)(d) into the Aquatic Plant Control Fund created by R.S. 56:10.1.

B. The revenues derived from the registration fees paid into the Conservation Fund shall be made available for the purpose of providing the necessary additional funds for the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Part or for such other purposes as may be determined by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Section 2. R.S. 56:10.1(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§10.1. Aquatic Plant Control Fund; creation; uses

* * *

1 C. Subject to an annual appropriation by the legislature, the monies in the
 2 Aquatic Plant Control Fund shall be used solely by the office of fisheries,
 3 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to fund the aquatic plant control program and
 4 to fund cooperative research and public education efforts by the Department of
 5 Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
 6 relative to aquatic weed control and eradication and to eradicate roseau cane scale.
 7 An amount not to exceed fifteen percent of the annual appropriation shall be used to
 8 fund research and public education efforts relative to aquatic weed control and
 9 eradication by the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. The funds
 10 appropriated pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be in addition to any
 11 other amounts appropriated by the legislature.

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 784 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

McFarland

Abstract: Increases boat registration fees and dedicates the revenue to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund.

Present law requires that each owner of a motorboat or sailboat required to be numbered by the state to submit an application to the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries accompanied by a designated fee based on the length of the boat. Along with the application, present law requires the owner to pay a fee based upon the length of the boat as follows:

- (1) \$20 for boats 14 ft. or less
- (2) \$25 for boats greater than 14 ft. and less than 18 ft.
- (3) \$30 for boats 18 ft. or greater plus \$2 for each foot or portion of a foot greater than 18 ft.

Proposed law retains present law and adds an additional \$9.00 fee until Aug. 1, 2023, on each length category of motorboat and sailboat.

Proposed law dedicates the revenue from the increases to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund.

Present law creates the Aquatic Plant Control Fund to fund the aquatic plant control program and to fund cooperative research and public education efforts by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries and the LSU Agricultural Center relative to aquatic weed control and eradication.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the eradication of roseau cane scale as a purpose of the fund.

(Amends R.S. 34:851.20(A)(1) and 851.32 and R.S. 56:10.1(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Limit the fee increase to applications for numbering a motorboat or sailboat.
2. Add the eradication of roseau cane scale as a purpose of the Aquatic Plant Control Fund.