

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 784****2018 Regular Session****McFarland**

BOATS/SHIPS/VESSELS: Increases boat registration fees

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes the dates of when the additional \$9.00 fee will apply from August 1, 2018 through August 1, 2023 to January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023.
2. Changes "an application" to "any application or renewal" for numbering.
3. Expands the added purpose of the Aquatic Plant Control Fund from eradicating roseau cane scales to eradicating and controlling aquatic invasive species.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 every three years 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 on any application or renewal for numbering on each length category of motorboat and sailboat. Further provides that the additional fee will apply beginning Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2023, inclusive of both dates.

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 and control of aquatic invasive species as a purpose of the fund.

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