AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:302.9(A)(1) and (3) and to enact R.S. 56:302.9(A)(4), relative to charter boat fishing licenses; to remove state requirement for a valid United States Coast Guard captain's license for freshwater charter boat fishing guides; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1.  R.S. 56:302.9(A)(1) and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:302.9(A)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§302.9.  Charter boat fishing guide license; nonresident fee

A.(1)(a)  No person shall act as nor represent himself to be a saltwater charter boat fishing guide unless that person possesses a valid state charter boat fishing guide license, a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard, proof of liability insurance, and a valid state recreational fishing license that grants fishing privileges appropriate for his charter activity.  In addition, any person acting as a saltwater charter boat fishing guide who is in charge of the operation of a vessel shall have his required licenses and proof of liability insurance on his person while on the water.  It shall not be a violation of this Section for a person to represent himself as a charter boat fishing guide if that person held a valid license during the previous thirty days but has not renewed the license.

(b) No person shall act as or represent himself to be a freshwater charter boat fishing guide unless that person possesses a valid state charter boat fishing guide license, proof of liability insurance, and a valid state recreational fishing license that
grants fishing privileges appropriate for his charter activity. In addition, any person acting as a freshwater charter boat fishing guide who is in charge of the operation of a vessel shall have his required licenses and proof of liability insurance on his person while on the water. It shall not be a violation of this Section for a person to represent himself as a charter boat fishing guide if that person held a valid license during the previous thirty days but has not renewed the license. The department shall provide written notification to the holder of a license issued pursuant to this Subparagraph that the holder may be subject to other requirements of law, including holding a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard.

(3) The nonresident charter boat fishing guide license shall be available only from the Baton Rouge office of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Such licenses shall be issued on a consignment basis, and no agent fees shall apply. A nonresident saltwater charter boat fishing guide license shall be made available only to those persons who possess a valid captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard.

(4) For the purposes of this Subsection, references to saltwater and freshwater shall be to the historic saltwater and freshwater areas described in R.S. 56:322(A) and (B).

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.