

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 398

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMERO, BROWN, COX, DAVIS, FISHER, FREEMAN,  
GOUDEAU, HILFERTY, JORDAN, LAFLEUR, MCKNIGHT, NEWELL, ST.  
BLANC, AND TARVER

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

AIRCRAFT/AVIATION: Requires persons being transported offshore by aircraft wear life jackets equipped with personal locator beacons

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1486.2(D), (E), and (F) and to enact R.S. 40:1486.2(G),  
3 relative to aircraft; to require each person being transported offshore by aircraft wear  
4 a life jacket equipped with a personal locator beacon; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1486.2(D), (E), and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted and  
8 R.S. 40:1486.2(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1486.2. State participation in and promotion of transportation of oil and gas  
10 workers over water

11 \* \* \*

12 D. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any aircraft used  
13 to transport offshore platform workers to and from the platform shall require each  
14 person being transported to wear a life jacket equipped with a personal locator  
15 beacon, as described in Paragraph (C)(1) of this Section.

16 E. The DA or his designated representative shall maintain familiarity with  
17 all Part 91, Part 133 and Part 135 regulations promulgated by the FAA pertaining to  
18 over water helicopter operations, and may obtain and review all advisory circulars  
19 of the FAA that relate to such over water helicopter operations in the state or

1 adjacent to its shores, issued under those parts of the Federal Aviation Regulations  
2 ("FAR"). Where appropriate, the DA or his designated representative shall promote  
3 the adherence to the regulations and adoption of the HSAC recommended practices.

4 ~~E.~~ F. The DA shall facilitate, as he deems necessary, information to the  
5 director of operations of operators who provide over water flight services in the state  
6 or adjacent to its shores, through publication on the Internet through an identifiable  
7 link on the DOTD website, summaries or text of relevant new FAR and Advisory  
8 Circulars published by the FAA or Recommended Practices published by HSAC.

9 ~~F.(1)~~ G.(1) The DA shall publish a report to the legislature, directed to the  
10 chairs of the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public  
11 works, wherein the DA shall summarize and comment upon all of the following:

12 (a) The previous year's developments in safe practices for operators who  
13 provide over water flight services in the state or adjacent to its shores, as such safe  
14 practices have evolved over the previous twelve months, through the federal and  
15 industry organizations referenced in this Part.

16 (b) Efforts made by the DA to ensure knowledge of all such practices by  
17 operators within the industry.

18 (2) The report shall be delivered to the committees no later than the first of  
19 September, annually. A copy of the report shall also be sent to the director of  
20 operations of each helicopter operator known by the DA to be engaged in providing  
21 over water flight services in the offshore oil and gas industry.

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#### 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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HB 398 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Romero

**Abstract:** Requires personal locator beacons on life jackets of persons being transported offshore by aircraft.

Present law specifies that among considerations for helicopter safety in over water flight services in the oil and gas industry, the DA may maintain knowledge of personal locator beacons (PLBs) capable of transmitting a digital coded distress signal and a permanent

homing signal suitable for use in over water flight services utilized in the oil and gas industry.

Proposed law requires a PLB be attached to the life jacket of each person being transported to and from offshore facilities by aircraft.

Proposed law relocates provisions regarding the DA maintaining familiarity with federal regulations, facilitating information on over water flight services to the director overseeing such operations, and publishing certain reports to the legislature.

Proposed law makes technical changes.

(Amends R.S. 40:1486.2(D), (E), and (F); Adds R.S. 40:1486.2(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.