

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Provides relative to saltwater and charter fishing licenses and fees

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Section 6 of Act No. 356 of the 2021 Regular Session of the  
3 Legislature and R.S. 56:3001(A)(4) and (5) and (B)(5) and (6), to enact R.S.  
4 56:302.1 and 3001(A)(6) and (B)(7), and to repeal R.S. 56:3007(C), relative to  
5 fishing; to require saltwater fishing licenses; to provide for terms and conditions of  
6 the saltwater fishing license; to provide for charter fishing licenses; to provide for the  
7 charter promotion fee, and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 56:3007(A)(4) and (5) and (B)(5) and (6) are hereby amended and  
10 reenacted and R.S. 56:302.1 and 3001(A)(6) and (B)(7) are hereby enacted to read as  
11 follows:

12 §302.1. Saltwater fishing; charter fishing

13 A. Any person fishing in the saltwater areas of the state defined in R.S.  
14 56:322 must purchase and possess both a basic fishing license and a saltwater license  
15 or an equivalent license that grants both basic fishing and saltwater fishing  
16 privileges.

17 B. As a condition of the application for and the granting of the saltwater  
18 license, all saltwater finfish caught or transported by the license holder while the  
19 license is in effect are presumed to have been taken in the waters of Louisiana.



1 Section 2. Section 6 of Act No. 356 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature  
2 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

3 Section 6. R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(d), (6), 103(E) and (F), 103.1, 104, 105, 155, 156, 157,  
4 164, 165, 166, ~~302.1~~, 302.2, 302.3, 302.4, 302.5, 302.6, 303.6(A)(2), 641.1, 642, 643, 646,  
5 647.1, 649.5, 649.6, 650, 650.1, and 1832 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

6 Section 3. R.S. 56:3007(C) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

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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 543 Original

2024 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Authorizes saltwater fishing with a saltwater license or a charter boat fishing license and separates the charter promotion fund fee from the charter fishing license fee.

Present law provides for fishing licenses and fees, including saltwater licenses and charter guide fishing licenses for residents and nonresidents.

Proposed law retains the licenses that exist under present law.

Present law includes a \$20 fee for three-day saltwater charter fishing licenses and \$10 for three-day freshwater charter fishing licenses.

Present law further provides that \$7.50 must be collected for every charter fishing license sold to be deposited into the Charter Boat Fishing Fund for the purposes of promoting charter fishing, among other things.

Present law establishes a single fee for charter fishing licenses that includes this \$7.50 promotion fee.

Proposed law separates the \$7.50 charter promotion fee from the charter fishing license fee so that it can be put into an escrow account for promotional use pursuant to present law.

Proposed law reinstates provisions of prior law regarding the options available for licensing when saltwater fishing.

(Amends Act No. 356 of the 2021 R.S., §6 and R.S. 56:3001(A)(4) and (5) and (B)(5) and (6); Adds R.S. 56:302.1 and 3001(A)(6) and (B)(7); Repeals R.S. 56:3007(C))