



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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June 12, 2026

The Honorable Phillip R. DeVillier
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RECEIVED
JUN 24 2026

House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

*Rnw
11:38 am*

The Honorable Michelle Fontenot
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
900 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: House Bill Number 688 of the 2026 Regular Session by Representative Joseph Orgeron

Dear Speaker DeVillier and Clerk Fontenot:

I am notifying you that I have vetoed House Bill 688 from the 2026 Regular Session by Representative Joseph Orgeron.

House Bill 688 is a solution in search of a problem. This proposed bill would make Atlantic tarpon a saltwater game fish. This legal designation is completely unnecessary since our anglers already treat tarpon as a catch-and-release sport fish in Louisiana.

I can discern no corresponding conservation benefit in this designation. There is no real harvest pressure on tarpon, and nothing in the science suggests we need new limits or restrictions to protect them. Louisiana's anglers do not need more regulatory hurdles for their recreational activities.

Creating this unnecessary legal designation could also lead to future regulations that do not actually help conservation. Once something becomes a statutory game fish, it often comes with size limits, possession limits, or gear rules. For tarpon, none of that would provide a real benefit, but it could limit our sportsman's time on the water.

I'm always willing to support more research when there's a real need, but I'm not willing to add red tape just for the sake of doing something. Regulation for the sake of regulation is not the way we should govern. My administration will keep fighting to make sure Louisiana's fisheries remain open, abundant, and accessible for our citizens and future generations.

June 12, 2026
House Bill 688 Veto Message

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 688 of the 2026 Regular Session.

For Louisiana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned House Bill 688