HLS 24RS-405 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYER

WILDLIFE/RESOURCES: Suspends requirements for record keeping regarding wild-caught freshwater fish

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To suspend until sixty days after final adjournment of the 2025 Regular Session of the
3	Legislature of Louisiana R.S. 56:303, 303.1.1, 303.4, 303.7, and 306 through 306.6
4	to the extent these provisions require record keeping and receipts regarding wild-
5	caught freshwater fish.
6	WHEREAS, R.S. 56:303, 303.1.1, 303.4, 303.7, and 306 through 306.6 require
7	commercial fishermen, wholesale/retail dealers, and retail dealers to make records of every
8	fish transaction among them, often referred to as the "trip ticket program"; and
9	WHEREAS, the trip ticket program implemented by the department is onerous, time-
10	consuming, and of questionable value for the commercial seafood trade in the state; and
11	WHEREAS, commercial fisherman and dealers are required to complete receipts in
12	triplicate and keep records regarding the following:
13	(1) The fisherman's first and last name.
14	(2) The fisherman's license number.
15	(3) The fisherman's signature.
16	(4) The gear the fisherman used that day.
17	(5) The vessel used.
18	(6) The primary location of where fish were caught.
19	(7) The duration of trip.
20	(8) Permit numbers for species requiring a permit to harvest.
21	(9) Records of the quantity and species of fish acquired.

1	(10) The date the fish was acquired.
2	(11) The name and license number of the wholesale/retail seafood dealer or the out-
3	of-state seller from whom the fish was acquired.
4	(12) The number by head count of species subject to creel limits.
5	(13) The quantity and species of fish sold.
6	(14) The date the fish was sold.
7	(15) The name and license number of the person to whom the fish was sold.
8	(16) The quantity, species, and date sold for all fish sold directly to a consumer.
9	(17) The size and condition of each species.
10	(18) The unit price of each species.
11	WHEREAS, it has become an economic and time-trying hardship on both the part
12	of the commercial fisherman and the dealer to properly and precisely record all of the
13	information required; and
14	WHEREAS, the penalties for not properly recording such information are steep,
15	where a fisherman can be fined and their whole catch and even their vessel can be seized;
16	and
17	WHEREAS, in addition to record keeping, commercial fishermen are also required
18	to obtain several licenses for the privileges of fishing, using vessels to fish, and using gear;
19	and
20	WHEREAS, this system is a deterrent to progress for commercial sale of wild-caught
21	seafood; and
22	WHEREAS, the freshwater fisherman have a significant economic impact on the
23	state; and
24	WHEREAS, freshwater industries, such as the wild-caught crawfish industry, is one
25	of the industries that defines Louisiana and its culture; and
26	WHEREAS, the information gathered regarding fisheries through this process has
27	many times benefitted commercial saltwater fishermen, dealers, and fish farmers with
28	disaster relief funding based on the data gathered; and
29	WHEREAS, commercial freshwater fishermen of the state have not received the
30	same benefits; and

1 WHEREAS, for all they do for our state and culture, commercial freshwater 2 fishermen should not be burdened with having to perform all of the record keeping duties 3 for management of these fisheries in addition to the numerous other obligations they have 4 to work under, especially if the task creates an unnecessary hardship and provides no benefit 5 for them; and 6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby suspends 7 the provisions of R.S. 56:303, 303.1.1, 303.4, 303.7, and 306 through 306.6 to the extent 8 these provisions apply to wild-caught freshwater fish. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this suspension shall become effective upon 10 adoption of this Resolution and shall extend through the sixtieth day after final adjournment

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)]

HCR 4 Original

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2024 Regular Session

Boyer

Suspends R.S. 56:303, 303.1.1, 303.4, 303.7, and 306 through 306.6 to the extent these provisions require record keeping and receipts regarding wild-caught freshwater fish.

(Suspends R.S. 56:303, 303.1.1, 303.4, 303.7, and 306 through 306.6)

of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.