

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 303

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEOPOLD

FISHING/OYSTERS: Requires successful completion of an oyster harvester education program prior to applying for an oyster harvester license

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:303.6(D), relative to oyster harvester licenses; to provide for  
3 certain qualifications for holding an oyster harvester license; to require successful  
4 completion of an oyster harvester education program; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 56:303.6(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §303.6. Oyster harvester license

9 \* \* \*

10 D. Beginning in license year 2017 and thereafter, any person applying for  
11 an oyster harvester license shall have completed the oyster harvester education  
12 program within the previous three years. The oyster harvester education program  
13 shall be developed by the department, promulgated under the Administrative  
14 Procedure Act by the commission, and implemented by the department for the  
15 purpose of developing professionalism in the oyster harvest industry. The oyster  
16 harvester education program shall include training in the Louisiana Shellfish  
17 Sanitation Program, Chapter 3 of Part IX of Title 51 of the Louisiana Administrative  
18 Code, "Preparation and Handling of Seafood for Market". In addition, the oyster  
19 harvester education program shall include best practices for conservation of the  
20 species.

1           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
5 effective on the day following such approval.

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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 303 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Leopold

**Abstract:** Requires applicants for an oyster harvester license to have completed an oyster harvester education program including the La. Shellfish Sanitation Program.

Present law requires the captain of a vessel harvesting oysters to have obtained an oyster harvester license. It is an annual license that costs \$100 for residents and \$400 for nonresidents.

Proposed law requires that beginning in license year 2017 and thereafter, any person applying for an oyster harvester license shall have completed the oyster harvester education program in the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries within the previous three years. Requires the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to develop an oyster harvester education program for the purpose of developing professionalism in the oyster harvest industry. Requires the oyster harvester education program to include training in the La. Shellfish Sanitation Program. Further requires the oyster harvester education program to include best practices for conservation of the species.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 56:303.6(D))