

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 579

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

FISHING/OYSTERS: Increases lease rental rates for oysters leases

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:428(C), relative to oyster harvesting; to increase the rental  
3 payments for oyster leases; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 56:428(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

6 §428. Commencement and duration of lease; renewal; fixing of rental rates

7 \* \* \*

8 C. The commission shall fix the rate of rental for oyster leases at two dollars  
9 per acre per year until January 1, 2016, at which time the commission shall set the  
10 rate of rental at three dollars per acre per year. The rate of rental fixed by the  
11 commission shall apply to all leases executed by the secretary. For the purpose of  
12 calculating the rental due for a lease, the amount of acreage covered by the lease  
13 shall be rounded off to the nearest full acre. The rent must be paid no later than the  
14 thirty-first of December following the signing of the lease, and annually thereafter,  
15 in advance on or before the first day of January, whether the lease be held by the  
16 original lessees or by an heir, assignee, or transferee. All revenues received from the  
17 payment of lease rentals under the provisions of this Subsection shall be credited to  
18 the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Fund, R.S. 56:434.1.

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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 579 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Garofalo

**Abstract:** Increases the rental rates for oyster leases.

Present law requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to fix rental rates for oyster leases at \$2 per acre per year. Proposed law requires the commission to set the rate at \$3 per acre per year beginning Jan. 1, 2016. Dedicates the revenues from oyster lease rental payments to the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Fund.

(Amends R.S. 56:428(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Remove the provision that increased the rental rate to \$4/acre/year in 2018.
2. Remove the provisions that increased the severance tax and provided for a credit for the taxes paid.