

AN ACT

relating to the requirement that certain persons taking oysters on a licensed commercial oyster boat obtain a commercial fisherman's license.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 47.002(f), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f) A person who takes or assists in taking oysters on a vessel licensed as a commercial oyster boat under Chapter 76 is ~~not~~ required to obtain or possess a general commercial fisherman's license. This subsection does not apply to the holder of a commercial oyster boat captain's license.

SECTION 2. Section 76.101(d), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Each member of the crew of a licensed commercial oyster boat is required to have a general commercial fisherman's license to take oysters while they are on a licensed boat that is being used to take oysters. This subsection does not apply to the holder of a commercial oyster boat captain's license.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3497 was passed by the House on May 2, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3497 was passed by the Senate on May 16, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor