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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the Secretary of the Alabama
6 State Law Enforcement Agency is authorized to adopt
7 rules concerning the safety of vessels and individuals
8 observing or participating in a regatta, motorboat, or
9 other boat race, marine parade, tournament, or
10 exhibition, and may adopt permit requirements for these
11 events.

12 This bill would exempt any fishing tournament
13 consisting of 30 vessels or fewer from applying for an
14 event permit.

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17 A BILL

18 TO BE ENTITLED

19 AN ACT

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21 Relating to boating vessels; to amend Section 33-5-27,
22 Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt the operation of certain
23 fishing tournaments from state permit requirements.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

25 Section 1. Section 33-5-27, Code of Alabama 1975, is
26 amended to read as follows:

27 "§33-5-27

28 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "marine



29 event" means any event held on or adjacent to the waters of
30 this state which includes vessel occupants as participants or
31 spectators. The term includes any regatta, motorboat, or other
32 boat race, marine parade, exhibition, competition, fishing
33 tournament, or other water sport tournament.

34 (b) The secretary shall adopt and may amend rules
35 concerning the safety of vessels and persons observing or
36 participating in any ~~regatta, motorboat, or other boat race,~~
37 ~~marine parade, tournament, or exhibition~~ marine event. The
38 rules adopted by the secretary may prescribe permit
39 requirements or similar event authorization requirements for
40 marine events.

41 (b) (c) Any person sponsoring a ~~regatta, motorboat, or~~
42 ~~other boat race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition~~
43 marine event shall be responsible for providing adequate
44 protection from marine traffic interference and hazards.

45 (d) Any fishing tournament consisting of 30 vessels or
46 fewer is not required to obtain an event permit or any similar
47 event authorization adopted by the secretary."

48 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
49 1, 2026.