



SYNOPSIS:

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

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

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§33-5-27

(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.