

HB79 INTRODUCED



1 HB79
2 QNLIC55-1
3 By Representative Crawford
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 17-Dec-25



SYNOPSIS:

Current law provides for a vessel registration fee in an amount based on length of the vessel, as well as an additional fixed registration fee of \$5 per vessel.

This bill would consolidate these fees and provide for the distribution of these fees.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to vessel registration; to amend Sections 33-5-10, 33-5-13, 33-5-14, and 33-5-17, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the registration of vessels, to provide for registration fees and the distribution of those fees; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 33-5-10, 33-5-13, 33-5-14, and 33-5-17, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:



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"§33-5-10

(a) (1) The secretary shall issue annual certificates of registration directly and shall authorize all judges of probate in the state or any other official in the state who is ~~presently~~ authorized to issue ~~automobile~~ motor vehicle license plates to issue annual certificates of registration and numbers ~~in connection therewith~~.

(2) In conformity with this article and any rules adopted by the secretary, the secretary shall assign ~~to each issuing officer in the county~~ a block of numbers and certificates ~~to each issuing officer in the county which upon issue, the~~ The issuing officer ~~shall be allowed~~ may collect a fee of two dollars (\$2) for each certificate issued by him or her. In counties where the judge of probate or issuing officer is on the fee system, the issuing fee shall be retained by the judge of probate, and, in counties where the issuing officer or judge of probate is on a salary basis, the fee shall be paid to the county treasury. The issuance fee shall be in addition to the amount of the ~~boat~~ vessel registration fee provided in Section 33-5-17.

(b) All ~~registration money~~ monies collected from the registration of vessels, except the ~~two dollar (\$2) issuance fee allowed under subsection~~ subdivision (a) (2), shall be remitted monthly to ALEA not later than 10 days after the first of each month. The secretary shall remit ~~the registration money~~ these funds to the State ~~Treasurer~~ Treasury to be deposited ~~in the State Water Safety Fund~~ as provided in subsection (c).



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(c) (1) Five dollars (\$5) from each registration fee provided in Section 33-5-17(a)(2)(i) through (iv) shall be remitted monthly to the State Treasury and deposited into the State Reservoir Management Grant Fund, established in Section 9-2-170, not later than 10 days after the first of each month.

(2) Unless otherwise provided by law, the remainder of the monies collected pursuant to this article, excluding the issuance fee provided in subsection (a) and the distribution provided in subdivision (c)(1), shall be remitted monthly to the State Treasury and deposited in the State Water Safety Fund.

(3) All monies ~~received out of the sale of licenses~~ collected from the registrations of vessels and deposited in the State Water Safety Fund under this article may be used by the secretary for all purposes reasonably necessary in the cost of administration of this article, including the printing of certificates of registration, postage and transportation charges, clerical, personnel, equipment purchases, salaries, and other expenses for each year; except, that no funds collected under this article may be used to supplement or pay the salaries of any law enforcement officers other than those hired specifically for the purposes of administering this article. The secretary shall expend the monies appropriated to the Marine Patrol Division as the secretary deems necessary and appropriate; provided, however, that the appropriations may be expended only for the purposes designated by the Legislature and in the amounts provided ~~therefor~~ in the general appropriation bill



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and shall be budgeted and allotted in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 41. It is the intent of the Legislature that the agency utilize existing personnel and equipment of the agency and of the sheriffs of this state to the maximum possible extent in enforcing and administering this article, to the end that there be no costly duplication of services."

"§33-5-13

(a) ~~Every~~Except as provided in subsection (b), each certificate of registration and license as provided for in this article is to ~~shall~~ be issued on a yearly basis and ~~said certificate and license~~ shall be valid for one issuing year only as provided in this article.

(b) ~~The registration of vessels shall be on a staggered basis. To implement this article, the registration of vessels may be for periods of less than or greater than 12 months during the conversion year only~~The initial certificate of registration may be issued in any month and for a period less than one year.

(c) ~~The staggered system for registration of vessels shall be implemented thusly: The first letter of an individual's last name shall determine the month in which a~~A vessel owner shall ~~register~~renew the registration of his or her vessel(s) ~~, as indicated below~~ during the month assigned to the first letter of the vessel owner's last name, as follows:

~~January.....A, D~~

~~February.....B~~

~~March.....C, E~~



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113 ~~April.....F, G, N~~
114 ~~May.....H, O~~
115 ~~June.....M, I~~
116 ~~July.....P, L~~
117 ~~August.....J, K, R~~
118 ~~September.....Q, S, T~~
119 ~~October.....U, V, W, X, Y, Z,~~
120 ~~to include livery boats, dealers, and manufacturers~~
121 January: A, D
122 February: B
123 March: C, E
124 April: F, G, N
125 May: H, O
126 June: M, I
127 July: P, L
128 August: J, K, R
129 September: Q, S, T
130 October: U, V, W, X, Y, Z, to include livery boats,
131 dealers, and manufacturers
132 ~~(d)After the conversion period all owners of vessels~~
133 ~~shall continue to register their vessels during the month~~
134 ~~assigned to the first initial of their last name. All~~
135 registrations ~~issued on a staggered basis~~ shall expire on the
136 last day of the month ~~which~~that precedes the registration
137 month ~~assigned for the purchase or renewal of~~
138 registration provided in subsection (c). ~~All registrations~~
139 ~~issued to vessels for which registration is due in October and~~
140 ~~November shall expire on September 30."~~



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"§33-5-14

(a) The description of the vessel of a manufacturer or dealer shall be omitted from the certificate of registration since the number awarded may be used on different vessels at different times. In lieu of the vessel's description, the word "manufacturer" or "dealer," as appropriate, shall be plainly marked on each certificate of registration.

(b) The manufacturer or dealer may have the number awarded printed upon or attached to a removable sign or signs to be temporarily but firmly mounted upon or attached to the vessel being demonstrated or tested ~~so long as if~~ the display meets the requirements of this article.

(c) A certificate of registration and the corresponding number issued pursuant to this section may only be used for vessels being demonstrated or tested."

"§33-5-17

(a) (1) Vessels subject to this article, including livery boats, shall be classified as provided in subdivision (2). ~~according to the following schedule and annual fees charged by the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency for registration shall be in the following amounts~~

(2) The amount of the vessel registration fee for each class is established as follows:

(i) CLASS 1. Vessels Less less than 16 feet in length ; ~~eighteen~~ twenty-three dollars ~~(\$18) (\$23) plus a two dollar (\$2) issuance fee.~~

(ii) CLASS 2. Vessels Sixteen 16 feet or over and less than 26 feet in length ; ~~twenty-three~~ twenty-eight dollars



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~~(\$23) (\$28) plus a two dollar (\$2) issuance fee.~~

(iii) CLASS 3. Vessels Twenty-six~~26~~ feet or over and less than 40 feet in length,: ~~seventy-three~~seventy-eight dollars ~~(\$73) (\$78) plus a two dollar (\$2) issuance fee.~~

(iv) CLASS 4. Vessels Forty~~40~~ feet or over in length,: ~~ninety-eight~~one hundred three dollars ~~(\$98) (\$103) plus a two dollar (\$2) issuance fee.~~

~~The above stated fees shall also apply to livery boats.~~

(v) CLASS 5. Dealer or manufacturer vessels,: ~~temporary license,~~ twenty-three dollars (\$23) ~~plus a two dollar (\$2) issuance fee for each license.~~

(3) The issuance fee provided in Section 33-5-10(a) shall be in addition to the vessel registration fee provided in subdivision (2).

~~(b) In addition to the foregoing fees, there shall be~~ an inspection fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) is established for all homemade boats which require a hull identification number. This fee shall be in addition to any other fee provided by law.

~~(c) In addition to the foregoing fees, there shall be an additional registration fee of five dollars (\$5) for every Class 1 through 4 vessel registered. All monies received from the additional registration fee provided under this subsection shall be remitted monthly to the State Treasurer to be deposited into the State Reservoir Management Grant Fund not later than 10 days after the first of each month."~~

Section 2. This act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.