



Ralph D. Clark

*Bill Analysis*  
Legislative Service Commission

## **H.B. 609**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. J. McGregor, T. Patton, Skindell, Allen, Fende, Garrison**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Establishes the Commercial Fishing Buy-Out Program to buy back all commercial fishing licenses and renewal rights from licensees.
- Makes a GRF appropriation of \$4 million to fund the program.
- Requires the cessation of all commercial fishing prior to the 2007 season.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Commercial Fishing Buy-Out Program**

The bill amends two sections of Am. Sub. H.B. 66 (Biennial Operating Budget for FY 2006-2007, sections 209.18 and 209.18.09) to create the Commercial Fishing Buy-Out Program and to make a GRF appropriation of \$4 million for FY 2007 to fund it. Under the program the Division of Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources must acquire all commercial fishing licenses currently issued and in reserve, including the rights to renew such licenses. The Division must use the appropriated money to buy back the licenses and renewal rights from the licensees as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date. The amount paid to each licensee is to be calculated as follows:

#### **Yellow perch:**

Avg. number of pounds per year of yellow perch caught (as reported by licensee as required by law) X \$1.94 per pound = amount paid to licensee

#### **All other species:**

Avg. number of pounds per year of other species caught (as reported by licensee as required by law) X \$0.28 per pound = amount paid to licensee

For both calculations, the average is to be determined by dividing by six the total of six years of largest reported catch during the 2000-2005 period. Each person holding a license is to be paid at least \$100.

Under the program all commercial fishing must cease prior to the 2007 season.

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## **HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	06-06-06

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