

House Bill 81

By: Representatives Hill of the 180<sup>th</sup>, Lane of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Barnard of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so  
2 as to change certain provisions relating to definitions; to change certain provisions relating  
3 to charter fishing guide and pier fishing licenses, fees, and maintenance of records; to provide  
4 for new licenses relative to salt water fishing; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended by  
9 adding to Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions, new paragraphs to read as follows:

10 "(61.1) 'Salt water fishing guide' means a person engaged in the occupation of taking  
11 fee-paying anglers fishing in the salt waters of this state.

12 (61.2) 'Salt water fishing pier' means a permanent structure built and maintained for the  
13 purpose of providing fishing access in the salt waters of this state and associated with a  
14 hotel or motel."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-23.2, relating to charter fishing  
17 guide and pier fishing licenses, fees, and maintenance of records, as follows:

18 "27-2-23.2.

19 ~~(a) Any United States Coast Guard licensed captain operating a charter fishing vessel and~~  
20 ~~any person operating a hotel or motel having a fishing pier or piers may purchase one~~  
21 ~~fishing license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section covering all persons fishing~~  
22 ~~from such vessel or pier. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the occupation~~  
23 ~~of salt water fishing guide without holding a valid annual salt water fishing guide license~~  
24 ~~pursuant to the provisions of this Code section.~~

1 (b)(1) A salt water fishing guide who possesses a valid United States Coast Guard  
 2 operator of passenger vessel license may purchase an annual customer fishing license  
 3 pursuant to the provisions of this Code section, which license shall cover all fee-paying  
 4 anglers while fishing with such guide during the license year; and all such anglers while  
 5 so covered shall be exempt from fishing license requirements otherwise applicable under  
 6 this title.

7 (2) Any person operating a single hotel or motel facility having a salt water fishing pier  
 8 or piers may purchase an annual salt water fishing pier license pursuant to the provisions  
 9 of this Code section, which license shall cover all anglers while fishing from such salt  
 10 water fishing pier during the license year; and all such anglers while so covered shall be  
 11 exempt from fishing license requirements otherwise applicable under this title.

12 (b) Fees for ~~charter fishing and pier licenses~~ required under this Code section shall be  
 13 ~~\$400.00 per year for each vessel and \$400.00 per year for all piers operated by any one~~  
 14 ~~hotel or motel.~~ as follows:

15 (1)(A) Resident salt water fishing guide license, \$25.00;

16 (B) Nonresident salt water fishing guide license, \$50.00;

17 (2)(A)(i) Customer fishing license for a resident salt water fishing guide carrying six  
 18 or fewer fee-paying anglers, \$150.00;

19 (ii) Customer fishing license for a resident salt water fishing guide carrying an  
 20 unlimited number of fee-paying anglers, \$400.00;

21 (B) Customer fishing license for a nonresident salt water fishing guide, \$400.00; and

22 (3) Salt water fishing pier license, \$400.00.

23 (c) ~~Each operator of a charter fishing vessel or pier licensed pursuant to this Code section~~  
 24 ~~shall maintain at all times a log book showing the names of persons accommodated under~~  
 25 ~~the vessel or pier fishing license each day and such other information as may be required~~  
 26 ~~by the department.~~

27 (d) ~~Each person required to maintain records~~ who holds a salt water fishing guide license  
 28 or salt water fishing pier license pursuant to the provisions of ~~subsection (c) of this Code~~  
 29 ~~section shall report such information~~ as required by the department at such times and in  
 30 such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation."

### 31 SECTION 3.

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.