
HOUSE BILL 1437

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives MacEwen and Eslick

Read first time 02/01/21. Referred to Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to a vessel crewmember license; and amending RCW
2 77.65.610.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.65.610 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 8 s 15 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) An individual age sixteen and older who works on board any
7 vessel while operating in a commercial fishery regulated by the state
8 must obtain a crewmember license from the department. However, an
9 individual on the vessel designated as the primary or alternate
10 operator on the commercial fishing license and an individual on the
11 vessel licensed and working as a geoduck diver or geoduck tender do
12 not also need a crewmember license. Crewmembers working for licensed
13 charters or guides are not required to have a crewmember license.

14 (b) A crewmember license is required for each individual who
15 participates in the operation of the vessel or the harvest. For the
16 purposes of this section, the term "harvest" includes participation
17 in tending, deploying, retrieving, or baiting fishing gear,
18 harvesting, or placing fish or shellfish in holds.

19 (c) Each individual required to have a crewmember license as set
20 forth in this section must have in their possession at least one
21 piece of identifying documentation as specified in RCW 46.20.035(1)

1 (a) through (f) that contains the signature and a photograph of the
2 individual and produce the documentation at the request of a fish and
3 wildlife officer or ex officio fish and wildlife officer.

4 (d) An albacore tuna crewmember license satisfies the
5 requirements specified in (a) and (b) of this subsection on vessels
6 fishing for albacore tuna or baitfish lampara.

7 (2) A crewmember license must be purchased in the name of the
8 individual working as the crewmember. The license holder may use the
9 license aboard any commercial fishing vessel, except an albacore tuna
10 crewmember license is only valid for participating in the albacore
11 tuna fishery or baitfish lampara fishery. A crewmember license
12 purchased by a crewmember may not be transferred to another
13 individual.

14 (3) Up to two crewmember licenses may be purchased and held by a
15 commercial fishing license holder for use by any individual working
16 on the vessel named in the commercial fishing license, as long as the
17 individual is not prohibited from obtaining a crewmember license.
18 Each crewmember license held by a commercial fishing license holder
19 covers one crewmember per trip, but the same crewmember license may
20 be used to authorize a different individual to act as a crewmember on
21 a subsequent trip. The commission may adopt fishery specific rules
22 that:

23 (a) Increase the number of crewmember licenses that may be held
24 by a commercial fishing license holder;

25 (b) Pertain to the issuance, period of validity, use, possession,
26 and display of the licenses.

27 (4) The fee for an annual crewmember license is thirty-five
28 dollars for residents and one hundred ten dollars for nonresidents.
29 The fee for an annual albacore tuna crewmember license is thirty-five
30 dollars for residents and nonresidents. Additional application fees
31 and surcharges do not apply except that if the license is purchased
32 through the automated licensing system the fees authorized in RCW
33 77.32.050 apply.

34 (5) The licenses must be available through the automated
35 licensing system and transaction fees and dealer fees apply, except
36 as provided in subsection (4) of this section. The annual crewmember
37 license is valid for a calendar year.

38 (6) Family members of the commercial license holder or alternate
39 operators are exempt from the requirements of this section. For
40 purposes of this section, family members include children,

1 grandchildren, spouse, parents, or siblings of the commercial license
2 holder.

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