

**Senate File 257 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 257  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 143)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to bass fishing in the state.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 483A.39 Bass fishing tournaments.

2 1. a. For the purposes of this section, "*bass fishing*  
3 *tournament*" means an organized fishing event, except for a  
4 fishing event sponsored by the department for educational  
5 purposes, involving all of the following:

6 (1) An organized event occurring on public water for the  
7 purpose of fishing for bass.

8 (2) Participation of six or more vessels or twelve or  
9 more individuals in the event, except for an event on the  
10 waters of the Mississippi river, where the number of vessels  
11 participating shall be twenty or more and the number of  
12 participants shall be forty or more.

13 (3) The award of prizes or other inducements for  
14 participation in the event.

15 b. For the purposes of this section, "*bass fishing*  
16 *tournament*" also includes a planned event on public water for  
17 the purpose of fishing for bass.

18 2. A person shall apply for a permit to hold a bass fishing  
19 tournament. The commission shall, by rule, specify the  
20 requirements to obtain a permit including but not limited to  
21 the following:

22 a. Minimum requirements for weigh-in, handling, and release  
23 of live bass by tournament participants.

24 b. Measurement of bass to length and release from a vessel.

25 c. Allowance of up to five bass for weigh-in during the  
26 tournament.

27 d. Allowance of possession of bass of any length so long as  
28 the bass are kept alive and are released after weigh-in.

29 e. Cleaning of vessels used before and after the tournament  
30 in compliance with department guidelines to prevent the  
31 transportation of aquatic invasive species.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 This bill relates to bass fishing tournaments in the state.

S.F. 257

1 The bill sets forth requirements for conducting bass fishing  
2 tournaments on public waters in the state and requires a  
3 person conducting a bass fishing tournament to obtain a permit  
4 from the department of natural resources. Currently, rules  
5 regulating fishing tournaments generally are contained in the  
6 department's administrative rules at 571 IAC 44.4(2).