

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 564

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACOB LANDRY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Establishes the Conservation Incentive Program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:10(B)(20) and Part VII of Chapter 8 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised
3 Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 56:1938.1 and 1938.2, relative to wildlife
4 resources and habitat; to establish a conservation incentive program account; to
5 provide for assisting private landowners with enhancing wildlife habitats and
6 wetlands on private property; to address impacts of invasive species; and to provide
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 56:10(B)(20) and Part VII of Chapter 8 of Title 56 of the Louisiana
10 Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 56:1938.1 and 1938.2, are hereby enacted to
11 read as follows:

12 §10. Annual report to governor; estimate of proposed expenditures; particular funds;
13 limitations on purposes for use of monies in particular funds and accounts;
14 warrants; vouchers; surplus funds

15 * * *

16 B.

17 * * *

18 (20) There is hereby established within the Conservation Fund a special
19 account known as the "Conservation Incentive Program Account" for the purpose of
20 assisting private landowners in enhancing wildlife habitat and managing native

1 species on private lands. The funds in this account shall be used solely for and in
 2 accordance with the Conservation Incentive Program provided for in R.S. 56:1938.1
 3 et seq. Any transfers or appropriations to the account and any public or private gifts,
 4 grants, or donations received by the state or the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 5 for the purposes of this program shall be deposited into the account. Monies in the
 6 account shall be subject to the same requirements as provided for other revenues
 7 placed in the Conservation Fund in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. The monies in
 8 the account shall be invested in the same manner as the monies in the state general
 9 fund and all interests earned shall be deposited and credited to the account after
 10 compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of
 11 Louisiana. All unexpended or unencumbered monies remaining in the account at the
 12 end of the fiscal year shall remain to the credit of the account.

* * *

PART VII. LOUISIANA CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

§1938.1. Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program; fund

16 There is hereby established within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 17 the Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program for the purpose of assisting private
 18 land owners to enhance wildlife habitat and to manage native species on private
 19 lands. The administration of the program and the projects funded to assist private
 20 landowners related to improving and providing wildlife habitats on their property
 21 shall be funded by the Conservation Incentive Program Account as provided for in
 22 R.S. 56:10(B)(20).

§1938.2. Program eligibility; application process

24 A. The department shall establish a grant program for projects eligible to
 25 receive funding through the Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program. Grants shall
 26 be awarded only in fiscal years in which the department receives an appropriation
 27 for the program. The department may seek additional funding through federal grant
 28 programs and other available sources of public or private funding.

B. Projects eligible for funding opportunities on private lands include:

- 1 (1) Forest stand improvement.
- 2 (2) Increasing prevalence of water on agricultural landscapes to provide
- 3 habitat for wintering waterfowl and wetland birds.
- 4 (3) Management of private wetlands to increase suitability for waterfowl and
- 5 wetland birds.
- 6 (4) Prescribed fire implementation.
- 7 (5) Feral swine control.

8 C. The department shall, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
 9 Act, promulgate and adopt rules necessary to implement this program. The rules
 10 shall include procedures for applying for the program and detailed criteria used to
 11 evaluate and select projects to receive funding.

12 Section 2.(A) The provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall become effective when
 13 an Act of the Louisiana Legislature containing a specific appropriation of monies for the
 14 implementation of the provisions of this Act becomes effective.

15 (B) The provisions of this Section shall become effective upon signature by the
 16 governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become
 17 law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the
 18 Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the
 19 legislature, the provisions of this Section shall become effective on the day following such
 20 approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 564 Reengrossed 2025 Regular Session Jacob Landry

Abstract: Establishes a conservation incentive program account within the Conservation Fund to assist private landowners with enhancing wildlife habitats and wetlands on private property and establishes criteria for obtaining this assistance.

Present law (R.S. 56:10) provides for annual reports to the governor, limits purposes for use of money in certain funds, and provides for the creation of special funds and accounts within the Conservation Fund. Proposed law adds the Conservation Incentive Program Account to the list of special accounts created in present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 56:1938.2) establishes the Conservation Incentive Program within the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (dept.) to assist private landowners with improving wildlife habitat on their property.

Proposed law restricts awarding of grants to fiscal years in which the dept. receives an appropriation for the program. Further authorizes the dept. to seek additional funding through federal grant programs and other public and private funding sources and to select recipients.

Proposed law requires the dept. to promulgate and adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act for the implementation of the Conservation Incentive Program.

Effective subject to appropriation of monies by the legislature for the implementation of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 56:10(B)(20), 1938.1, and 1938.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Change references from "fund" to "account" throughout proposed law.
2. Authorize the account to receive transfers of money.
3. Restrict grant awards to years in which the dept. receives an appropriation for the program.
4. Delete reference to promulgation of regulations.
5. Make effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation of monies by the legislature for the implementation of proposed law.