

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 130

2018 Regular Session

Schexnayder

WILDLIFE/MGT AREAS: Provides for the establishment of airboat trails on the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Limits the use of airboats on the Maurepas Swamp WMA.
2. Provides a sunset of August 1, 2019.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law limits the use of airboats on the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to airboat trails established by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Further provides that the trails be established by rules and regulations promulgated in accordance with the APA on the Maurepas Swamp WMA where airboat operation is feasible and in a manner to best protect public safety and wildlife resources and habitats.

Proposed law limits airboat trails to trails or rights of way existing as of Feb. 1, 2018.

Proposed law provides that such rules and regulations require mufflers and limitations on the engine size on airboats and requires the operator to possess a WMA permit, to annually notify the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries of the airboat's registration number, to make the airboat available for inspection, and to prohibit use of the trails by airboats between Sept. 1st and the following Jan. 31st.

Proposed law prohibits any person from operating an airboat on the Maurepas Swamp WMA if that person violates proposed law or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to proposed law, three times within a 10-year period.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law will terminate on Aug. 1, 2019.

Present law requires the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to keep at least one all-terrain vehicle trail open throughout the year at each wildlife management area that has all-terrain vehicle trails. Specifies that any violation of the provisions in present law is a class one violation.

Proposed law retains present law and specifies that violations of proposed law are also class one violations.

(Amends R.S. 56:109.1)