

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY REPRESENTATIVE MINCEY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to assess the potential for an experimental season allowing deer hunting with the use of dogs on a portion of the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:109 establishes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's sole authority to establish rules and regulations pertaining to wild quadrupeds on WMAs; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to enhance and protect wildlife habitat in the state, to ensure the protection of the natural resources, and to preserve, protect and promote biological diversity; and

WHEREAS, additionally, it is the responsibility of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to enhance, protect, and restore natural wetland and upland habitats to promote environmental education and research; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the LDWF to enhance and promote hunting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, certain portions of the state have enjoyed a dog hunting culture and tradition to hunt deer as a recreational pursuit; and

WHEREAS, portions of the Maurepas Swamp WMA, prior to becoming a state property managed by the LDWF, provided areas for some Louisiana hunters to pursue deer with dogs; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted regulations restricting the use of dogs for hunting deer on Maurepas Swamp WMA; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Legislature of Louisiana to review the rationale for prohibiting hunting deer with dogs on the Maruepas Swamp WMA and to determine if any deer hunting opportunity with the use of dogs could be allowed during an experimental season.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to complete an assessment and review of the use of dogs to hunt deer on the Maurepas Swamp WMA, including proposed hunting guidelines and proposed hunting area and season guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written report of the assessment and review completed by the department, including proposed guidelines, be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the speaker of the House of Representatives no later than January 18, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES