

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 586

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRAUD

ADMINISTRATION: Establishes a Wildlife Rehabilitation Support Council within the office of the governor

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 36:4(B)(38) and Subpart D of Part IV of Chapter 1 of Title 56 of the Revised  
3 Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 56:201 and 202, relative to the Wildlife  
4 Rehabilitation Support Council; to establish the Wildlife Rehabilitation Support  
5 Council in the office of the governor; to provide for council membership; to provide  
6 for duties and responsibilities of the council; to provide for funding from a special  
7 prestige license plate; to provide for oversight; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 36:4(B)(38) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §4. Structure of executive branch of state government

11 \* \* \*

12 B. The office of the governor shall be in the executive branch of state  
13 government. The governor may allocate within his office the powers, duties, funds,  
14 functions, appropriations, responsibilities, and personnel of the agencies within his  
15 office and provide for the administration thereof and for the organization of his  
16 office. The following agencies and their powers, duties, functions, and  
17 responsibilities are hereby transferred to the office of the governor:

18 \* \* \*

19 (38) Wildlife Rehabilitation Support Council (R.S. 56:201 et seq.).

20 \* \* \*

1 Section 2. Subpart D of Part IV of Chapter 1 of Title 56 of the Revised Statutes of  
2 1950, comprised of R.S. 56:201 and 202 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

3 SUBPART D. WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SUPPORT COUNCIL

4 §201. Wildlife Rehabilitation Support Council

5 A. The Wildlife Rehabilitation Support Council is hereby established within  
6 the office of the governor. The council shall meet at least twice annually and shall  
7 be composed of the following members:

8 (1) One representative from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,  
9 appointed by the secretary.

10 (2) One representative from the NOLA Wildlife Center.

11 (3) One representative from the Humane Society of Louisiana, appointed by  
12 the executive director.

13 (4) One representative from Silent Voices Raccoon and Wildlife  
14 Rehabilitation.

15 (5) One representative from For the Birds of Acadiana.

16 B. Council members shall serve on a voluntary basis and shall not receive  
17 any compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

18 §202. Council; purpose; responsibilities

19 A. The council is charged with administering the funds collected from the  
20 sale and renewal of the "Support Our Wildlife Rehabilitators" special prestige license  
21 plate through a grant program for licensed wildlife rehabilitators and licensed  
22 wildlife rehabilitation centers. In furtherance of this charge, the council shall:

23 (1) Select a color and design for the license plate, which shall contain an  
24 image or logo of a wild animal, provided it is in compliance with R.S. 47:463(A)(3),  
25 and shall bear the words "Support Our Wildlife Rehabilitators".

26 (2) Establish guidelines for the expenditure of funds and an application  
27 process for the grant program.

28 (3) Review grant applications and select grant recipients.

29 (4) Distribute annual grants to grant recipients.

1           B. The monies received from the sale and renewal of the special prestige  
2           license plate shall be used solely to support wildlife rehabilitation efforts and costs  
3           associated with these endeavors, except that the council may reserve or expend up  
4           to five percent of the funds received each quarter from the Department of  
5           Transportation and Development for the promotion and marketing of the prestige  
6           license plate and for administrative costs relative to the distribution of the monies.

7           C. The council is authorized to establish such policies and procedures as it  
8           deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this Subpart, subject to oversight by  
9           the House and Senate Transportation, Highways, and Public Works Committees.

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 586 Original

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**Abstract:** Creates the Wildlife Rehabilitation Support Council to administer a grant program for licensed wildlife rehabilitators and licensed wildlife rehabilitation centers with funding from a special prestige license plate created for this purpose.

Proposed law creates the Wildlife Rehabilitation Support Council within the office of the governor.

Proposed law provides that the council must meet at least twice a year and that the council members will serve voluntarily and without compensation.

Proposed law establish the following members of the council:

- (1) One representative from the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, appointed by the secretary.
- (2) One representative from the NOLA Wildlife Center.
- (3) One representative from the Humane Society of La., appointed by the executive director.
- (4) One representative from Silent Voices Raccoon and Wildlife Rehabilitation.
- (5) One representative from For the Birds of Acadiana.

Proposed law requires that the council use monies collected through the sale of a special prestige license plate to fund a grant program for wildlife rehabilitators.

Proposed law requires the council to establish rules for the use of funds and for grant applications, review applications and select grant recipients, and distribute grant money.

Proposed law authorizes the council to establish other rules that may be necessary to implement the grant program, subject to oversight by the Senate and House committees on Transportation,, Highways, and Public Works.

Proposed law requires that all money received from the sale of the license plates be used to support wildlife rehabilitation, except that five percent may be used to promote the license plate.

(Adds R.S. 36:4(B)(38) and R.S. 56:201 and 202)