
DIGEST

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HB 684 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Riser

Abstract: Authorizes black bear hunting, establishes license requirements, authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a lottery, authorizes the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to auction for black bear harvest permits, and allows dedicated black bear funds to be used for management, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the black bear.

Present law creates a black bear account within the Conservation Fund with a restriction that funds in the account only be used for conserving, restoring, and enhancing black bear habitat.

Proposed law removes the requirement that funds in the black bear account be used solely for habitat and adds a permitted use for managing black bears, so the funds may be spent on managing, conserving, restoring, and enhancing the black bear in the state.

Present law creates a special prestige license plate for the La. black bear and directs that the fees received through the sale of this plate be credited to the black bear account in the Conservation Fund.

Present law further requires that the funds from the license plate can only be used for nongame purposes.

Proposed law removes the restriction on funds being used only for nongame purposes.

Proposed law requires a basic hunting license, a bear hunting license, and a bear harvest permit to hunt and take black bears.

Proposed law authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a lottery for bear harvest permits and establishes a \$50 fee for lottery applications.

Proposed law further authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to auction a single bear harvest permit to the highest bidder.

Proposed law requires that all revenue received from the sale of lottery applications and from the auction of bear permits be deposited in the black bear account in the Conservation Fund.

Present law prohibits the feeding of wild bears.

Proposed law provides an exception to this prohibition for baiting of bears by properly licensed and

permitted hunters.

Present law establishes fees for recreational hunting licenses and dedicates license revenue.

Proposed law establishes a \$25 fee for resident bear hunting licenses and dedicates the revenue from bear hunting licenses to the black bear account in the Conservation Fund.

(Amends R.S. 47:463.45(C)(1) and R.S. 56:10(B)(9) and 291; Adds R.S. 56:103(D), 116.3(I), 3002(A)(6), and 3007(H))