

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2024 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to Reengrossed House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Representative Ventrella

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 2, after "rules" delete "LAC 76:V.131(E)(4) and (6)" and insert "LAC
3 76:V.131(B), (E)(4), and (6)"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 2

5 On page 2, line 4, change "permit; and" to "permit."

6 AMENDMENT NO. 3

7 On page 2, delete lines 5 through 10 in their entirety

8 AMENDMENT NO. 4

9 On page 2, at the beginning of line 12, delete "76:V.131(E)(4) and (6)" and insert
10 "76:V.131(B), (E)(4), and (6)"

11 AMENDMENT NO. 5

12 On page 2, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

13 "B. Definitions

14 *Rabies Vector Species (RVS)* - mammalian species defined by Louisiana
15 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) as potential carriers of the rabies
16 virus including, but not limited to the following:

- 17 a. raccoons;
- 18 b. foxes;
- 19 c. coyotes;
- 20 d. skunks; and
- 21 e. bats.

22 *Subpermittee* - person authorized to conduct rehabilitation activities under the
23 supervisory responsibility of a wildlife rehabilitator.

24 *Supervisory Responsibility* - to direct actions and accept responsibility for the
25 actions of a named individual engaged in wildlife rehabilitation activities.

26 *Wildlife Rehabilitation* - activity that provides housing, treatment and
27 temporary care of injured and/or orphaned indigenous animals with the goal of
28 subsequent release of those healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild.

29 *Wildlife Rehabilitator* - a person who is permitted by the LDWF to engage
30 in the practice of wildlife rehabilitation.

31 *Wildlife Rescuer* - a person who is allowed to possess certain wildlife in
32 accordance with the exemption requirements of Paragraph (D)(3) of this Section.

33 * * *

34 AMENDMENT NO. 6

35 On page 2, line 18, after "3." delete the remainder of the line and delete lines 19 through 27
36 and insert the following:

37 "Wildlife Rescuer

- 38 a. Individuals may possess in captivity certain sick, injured, or orphaned
39 wildlife while providing care for such wildlife for a period of up to ninety days as
40 provided for in this Paragraph:

1 i. Wildlife included under this Paragraph shall be limited to the following
2 species: squirrel, opossum, rabbit, or chipmunk, with such possession limited to one
3 animal or litter of animals per individual.

4 ii. A raccoon or skunk that is sick, injured, or orphaned may also be
5 possessed pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph upon notification to the
6 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of possession of the wildlife and upon receipt
7 of information regarding rabies vector species and a list of available wildlife
8 rehabilitators.

9 iii. Individuals in possession of any of these animals shall be held strictly
10 liable for any damages for injuries to persons or property caused by the animal.

11 b. To continue to possess the wildlife beyond ninety day from finding the
12 sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife all of the following shall occur:

13 i. The individual has satisfied wildlife rescuer training requirements. The
14 curriculum shall be offered online and shall cover at a minimum safety
15 considerations, wildlife husbandry requirements, transfer of diseases, and that a
16 person possessing an animal pursuant to this Paragraph is held strictly liable for any
17 damage or injury the animal causes.

18 ii. The individual applied for a Special Purpose and Possession permit.

19 iii. A Louisiana licensed veterinarian has determined that the animal is
20 medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in captivity.

21 c. i. If the conditions of Subparagraph b of this Paragraph have been met, the
22 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall issue a Special Purpose and Possession
23 permit and the individual shall be able to continue to possess the animal for the
24 duration of its natural life.

25 ii. Any animal possessed pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall
26 be spayed or neutered. Rabies vector species shall also be microchipped by a
27 Louisiana licensed veterinarian.

28 d. A Louisiana licensed veterinarian shall not be liable to any person for any
29 injury, illness, death, loss, civil penalty, or damage as a result of any act or omission
30 in determining that the animal is medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of
31 adjusted life in captivity as required by the provisions of this Paragraph. However,
32 this limitation of liability shall not be applicable if the damage, injury, or loss was
33 caused by the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the licensed
34 Louisiana veterinarian.

35 e. It shall be unlawful for an individual exempted under the provisions of this
36 Paragraph to use the wildlife in any manner for the purposes of exploitation,
37 including for any promotional or commercial purpose, or for the purposes of pet
38 trade. Any such act shall be grounds for seizure of the wildlife by the department
39 and revocation of any issued permit."

40 AMENDMENT NO. 7

41 On page 3, line 14, after "applicant." delete the remainder of the line and delete lines 15 and
42 16 in their entirety

43 AMENDMENT NO. 8

44 On page 3, line 21, after "amendments to" delete "LAC 76:V.131(E)(4) and (6)" and insert
45 "LAC 76:V.131(B), (E)(4), and (6)"