

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER

WILDLIFE/RESOURCES: Creates the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force to study and recommend best practices
3 for the management and mitigation of chronic wasting disease in the state.

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a neurodegenerative disease found in most deer species (cervids), including but not limited to white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, red deer, moose, and caribou; and

7 WHEREAS, CWD is infectious, causes irreversible damage to brain tissue, is similar
8 to mad cow disease in cattle, is always fatal to the cervid, and there is no treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, CWD was first found in Louisiana in wild deer in 2022 and in captive
10 cervid pens in 2024; and

11 WHEREAS, not only have cervids within Louisiana tested positive for CWD, but the
12 disease has also been found in the neighboring states of Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Louisiana has already adopted certain management policies to contain
15 the spread of CWD in Louisiana, with such policies including the establishment of control
16 zones within which there are feeding and baiting restrictions, restrictions on the movement
17 of deer body parts, and testing any deer harvested from within control zones for CWD, but
18 there may be other policies and management techniques that should be evaluated; and

19 WHEREAS, in addition the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted a rule
20 prohibiting the importation, transportation, or possession of any cervid carcass or parts of

1 a cervid carcass, with certain exemptions for cleaned parts with no part of the spinal column
2 or the head attached, or taxidermy mounts; and

3 WHEREAS, many local businesses provide the food for deer feeders, bait to be
4 placed in the woods, and mineral and salt licks; and

5 WHEREAS, restrictions and bans on feeding deer, mineral and salt licks, and placing
6 bait in the control area have a detrimental economic impact on these businesses; and

7 WHEREAS, the introduction of CWD into Louisiana has the potential to be
8 devastating to the deer hunting and breeding communities in the state and the businesses that
9 support those activities, so all efforts to mitigate CWD and prevent its spread within the state
10 should be investigated; and

11 WHEREAS, a task force of experienced and interested parties could function in an
12 advisory manner to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture
13 and Forestry, and the legislature as policies for management of CWD in Louisiana are
14 discussed, recommended, and developed.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 create the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force to study and recommend best practices for
17 managing CWD and mitigating its spread within the state.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CWD Task Force shall be comprised of the
19 following members:

20 (A) Members representing state government shall include the following:

21 (1) One member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.

22 (2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
23 House.

24 (3) One Wildlife and Fisheries Commissioner, designated by the chairman of the
25 commission.

26 (4) The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries State Wildlife Veterinarian.

27 (5) The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Deer Program Manager.

28 (6) The Department of Agriculture and Forestry State Veterinarian or his designee.

29 (B) One member shall be appointed by each of the following non-governmental
30 organizations:

1 (1) The Louisiana Landowners Association.

2 (2) The Natural Resource Management Association.

3 (3) The Louisiana Forestry Association.

4 (4) The Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

5 (5) The Louisiana Farm Bureau.

6 (C) Members representing private industry and landowners shall include the
7 following:

8 (1) One member from a private timber company with property in Louisiana's CWD
9 Control Area and other CWD Management Zones in the Southeast.

10 (2) One private landowner from each CWD Enhanced Mitigation Zone, at least one
11 of which shall be enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program.

12 (3) One member representing deer processing businesses operating within an
13 existing CWD Control Area.

14 (4) One member representing a feed store business operating within an existing
15 CWD Control Area.

16 (5) A representative appointed by Whitetails of Louisiana.

17 (D) Members representing the federal government shall include the following, which
18 shall serve as non-voting members:

19 (1) One forest service biologist appointed by the United States Forest Service.

20 (2) One refuge project leader from a complex within a CWD Control Area appointed
21 by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

22 (3) One member appointed by the United States Department of Agriculture Animal
23 and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services.

24 (4) One member appointed by the United States Department of Agriculture Animal
25 and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the member of the House of Representatives
27 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve as chairman of the task
28 force.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
30 without compensation; however, the task force members representing state agencies may

1 receive the same reimbursement of travel expenses for attending task force meetings as is
2 allowed for other state employees' travel.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall
4 staff the CWD Task Force.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is charged with studying and
6 providing recommendations regarding, at a minimum, the following:

7 (1) Evaluating practices being used for testing and tracking in the state regarding
8 their usefulness and whether they meet the best practices recommended by the CWD
9 management and research community, including state and national agencies and partners.

10 (2) Identifying ways in which state agencies can coordinate information sharing on
11 new CWD cases in the state to provide for improved response and public notification,
12 including mapping.

13 (3) Identifying the level of monitoring and reporting of CWD cases in both captive
14 and wild herds that can provide a comprehensive look at the rate of spread and possible
15 source areas, or hot spots, to develop a more comprehensive response if needed.

16 (4) Identifying containment protocols for both wild and captive deer populations,
17 including those currently practiced in the state and those not being currently practiced in the
18 state.

19 (5) Evaluating existing plans, regulations, and statutes, and identification of updates
20 that may be required for regulatory measures in order to provide for effective response in
21 management of wild and captive deer populations.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report of its
23 findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Natural Resources and
24 Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on
25 Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, and the Senate Committee on
26 Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development before the commencement of
27 the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each
29 task force member, or organization charged with appointing a member of the task force.

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)]

HCR 75 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Riser

Creates the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force to study and recommend best practices for the management and mitigation of chronic wasting disease in the state.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that the member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker shall serve as chairman of the task force.
2. Make technical changes.