2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to evaluate feral hog toxicants and seek opportunities to cooperate

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of 3 Agriculture and Forestry evaluate any hog toxicant prior to approval in Louisiana as 4 to its potential impacts on wildlife and the effects of consumption of that wildlife on 5 humans and to seek opportunities to cooperate where the exercise of each 6 department's duties and responsibilities significantly impacts the other department. 7 WHEREAS, feral hogs (Sus scrofa), including European wild hogs and hybrids, 8 commonly weigh two hundred pounds but can easily weigh up to four hundred pounds, are 9 quickly becoming the most serious problem facing land managers and hunters in Louisiana; 10 and 11 WHEREAS, feral hogs destroy crops, golf courses, levees, hayfields, tree farms, and 12 even lawns; a vector of disease for both animals and humans; are extremely prolific with 13 virtually no natural predators; and 14 WHEREAS, with their high proliferation and lack of natural predators, the difficult 15 task of feral hog management has sought several approaches including, expanding 16 opportunities to take feral hogs, restrictions on feral hog movement, and chemicals that act 17 as either toxicant or birth control; and 18 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recently approved 19 the toxicant Kaput that is a bait infused with warfarin, the active ingredient in the 20 anticoagulant drug Coumadin for humans and is extremely toxic to other mammals; and

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WHEREAS, despite efforts to reduce the risk to other mammals, concerns continued 2 as the toxicant's effects on the black bear, secondary intoxication of predators and 3 scavengers, and effects on humans also prescribed Coumadin; and

- 4 WHEREAS, recognizing these issues, particularly the possible impact on the black bear only recently taken off the endangered species list, the commissioner of agriculture and 5 6 forestry rescinded the registration of Kaput, rendering it ineligible for sale in Louisiana; and 7 WHEREAS, both a Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission resolution and a 8 recommendation by the Louisiana Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force called for 9 a joint evaluation of any hog toxicant's impacts prior to use in this state; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Wildlife and 11 Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry often coincide as actions taken to 12 manage wild animals often impact the management of domestic animals and vice versa; and 13 WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana, whether farmers or outdoorsmen and women, 14 are well served when the decisions and resources of these departments align in cooperation 15 for the betterment of both agricultural interests and the health and diversity of wild habitat. 16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of 17 18 Agriculture and Forestry evaluate any hog toxicant prior to approval in Louisiana as to its 19 potential impacts on wildlife and the effects of consumption of that wildlife on humans and 20 to seek opportunities to cooperate where the exercise of each department's duties and 21 responsibilities significantly impacts the other department. 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 23 to the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the secretary of the
- 24 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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)]

Bishop

Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry evaluate any hog toxicant prior to approval in Louisiana as to its potential impacts on wildlife and the effects of consumption of that wildlife on humans and to seek opportunities to cooperate where the exercise of each department's duties and responsibilities significantly impacts the other department.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

- The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Natural Resources and</u> <u>Environment</u> to the <u>original</u> resolution:
- 1. Change evaluation <u>from</u> the hog toxicant Kaput <u>to</u> any hog toxicant.
- 2. Remove the Louisiana Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force.
- 3. Add that both departments should seek opportunities to cooperate for the betterment of agricultural interests and the health and diversity of wild habitats.