

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department 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.

WHEREAS, feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*), including European wild hogs and hybrids, commonly weigh two hundred pounds but can easily weigh up to four hundred pounds, are quickly becoming the most serious problem facing land managers and hunters in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, feral hogs destroy crops, golf courses, levees, hayfields, tree farms, and even lawns; a vector of disease for both animals and humans; are extremely prolific with virtually no natural predators; and

WHEREAS, with their high proliferation and lack of natural predators, the difficult task of feral hog management has sought several approaches including, expanding opportunities to take feral hogs, restrictions on feral hog movement, and chemicals that act as either toxicant or birth control; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recently approved the toxicant Kaput that is a bait infused with warfarin, the active ingredient in the anticoagulant drug Coumadin for humans and is extremely toxic to other mammals; and

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

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on the black bear only recently taken off the endangered species list, the commissioner of agriculture and forestry rescinded the registration of Kaput, rendering it ineligible for sale in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, both a Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission resolution and a recommendation by the Louisiana Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force called for a joint evaluation of any hog toxicant's impacts prior to use in this state; and

WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry often coincide as actions taken to manage wild animals often impact the management of domestic animals and vice versa; and

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana, whether farmers or outdoorsmen and women, are well served when the decisions and resources of these departments align in cooperation for the betterment of both agricultural interests and the health and diversity of wild habitat.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE