

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU AND BOURRIAQUE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WILDLIFE/REFUGES: Exempts users of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge from the requirement of completion of a self-clearing permit

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To amend the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission rule, LAC 76:III.111(B), which
 3 provides that a self-clearing permit is required for all activities on department-
 4 administered land, including wildlife refuges.

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has historically
 6 required all persons utilizing Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to complete a self-
 7 clearing permit providing information about their activities on the property; and

8 WHEREAS, self-clearing permits are a valuable tool used by the Department of
 9 Wildlife and Fisheries to manage WMAs, leverage federal grants, and to provide the best
 10 services and opportunities for the WMA users; and

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, office of wildlife
 12 has recently undergone a reorganization to place management of all department managed
 13 properties including WMAs, refuges, and conservation areas under the same section for the
 14 purpose of establishing a more uniform and cohesive management of the department's
 15 properties; and

16 WHEREAS, as a result of the reorganization, in June of 2022 the Louisiana Wildlife
 17 and Fisheries Commission promulgated a final rule to extend the requirement for self-
 18 clearing permits to users of all department-administered lands, including wildlife refuges and
 19 wildlife conservation areas in addition to WMAs; and

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 WHEREAS, wildlife refuges provide critical habitat designed for the preservation
2 and protection of wildlife and aquatic life and recreational activities are generally limited to
3 fishing, and non-consumptive uses; and

4 WHEREAS, the self-clearing permit requirement on the department-administered
5 lands of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and the Marsh Island Refuge is found to place a
6 burden on recreational users of the land that exceeds the data collection and management
7 benefits that the permits provide to the department.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that LAC
9 76:III.111(B) is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 §111. Access and Permits

11 * * *

12 B. Self-Clearing Permits. A self-clearing permit is required for all activities
13 (hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, sightseeing, etc.) on department-
14 administered lands including wildlife refuges, except for the Rockefeller Wildlife
15 Refuge and the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge, and wildlife management and habitat
16 conservation areas. The self-clearing permit will consist of two portions: check in,
17 check out. All persons must either check in/check out electronically through the
18 department WMA/public land self-clearing permit app/Internet Web Portal or obtain
19 a self-clearing permit from an information station. Users may check in one day in
20 advance of use. Users that check in by electronic means are required to possess
21 proof of check in and must check out within 24 hours. If utilizing paper self-clearing
22 permits from an information station, check in portion must be completed and put in
23 a permit box before each day's activity. The check out portion must be carried by
24 each person while on the properties and must be completed and put in a permit box
25 immediately upon exiting the properties.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27 office of the state register and to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
28 Fisheries.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the state register is hereby directed
2 to have the amendments to LAC 76:III:111(B) printed and incorporated into the Louisiana
3 Administrative Code.

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 3 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Beaulieu

Abstract: Exempts users of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and the Marsh Island Refuge from the requirement of completion of a self-clearing permit.

Amends LAC 706:III:111(B) of the rules and regulations promulgated by the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, relative to self-clearing permits required for all activities on department-administered lands, including wildlife refuges. Modifies the administrative rule to remove the requirement of self-clearing permits on the wildlife refuges of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge.

Directs the office of the state register to print the amendment to LAC 76:III.111(B) in the La. Administrative Code.

(Amends LAC 76:III.111(B))