

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU AND BOURRIAQUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§111. Access and Permits

* * *

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

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE