HLS 24RS-830 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE VENTRELLA

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Provides relative to Wildlife Rehabilitation Program rules

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To amend the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries rules LAC 76:V.131(E)(4), (5), and (6)
3	and (F)(7), which provide relative to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, to provide
4	for requirements for a Wildlife Rehabilitation Program permit, to provide general
5	rules for the Wildlife Rehabilitation program, to provide for requests for extension,
6	and to direct the office of the state register to print the amendments in the Louisiana
7	Administrative Code.
8	WHEREAS, the current permit process for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit
9	Program is overly burdensome, making it too difficult to become a permitted rehabilitator;
0	and
1	WHEREAS, there is a shortage of licensed rehabilitators in the state of Louisiana
12	burdening current rehabilitators past capacity; and
13	WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit
4	Program regulates the rehabilitation of injured or orphaned wildlife in Louisiana; and
15	WHEREAS, you must have a wildlife rehabilitation permit to rehabilitate wildlife
16	in Louisiana; and
17	WHEREAS, to obtain a permit you must have knowledge of wildlife behavior,
18	habitat, diet and other species specific needs; and
19	WHEREAS, completion of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Basic Skills Course
20	is required for individuals to receive a wildlife rehabilitation permit; and

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	WHEREAS, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Basic Skills Course is only offered
2	annually; and
3	WHEREAS, offering the course online will make it more readily available to the
4	general public who may wish to obtain a wildlife rehabilitation permit; and
5	WHEREAS, requiring verification of access to veterinary services can be overly
6	burdensome on a person interested in the rehabilitation of wildlife; and
7	WHEREAS, allowing for inspections of housing facilities can be overly intrusive on
8	a person interested in the rehabilitation of wildlife; and
9	WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is a self-funded department
10	and the requirement of a fee for licensure offsets the cost for the rehabilitation program.
11	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that LAC
12	76:V.131(E)(4), (5), and (6) and (F)(7) are hereby amended to read as follows:
13	§131. Wildlife Rehabilitation Program
14	* * *
15	E. Permit Requirements
16	* * *
17	4. Prior to licensure or renewal, all applicants must show proof of completion
18	of a LDWF-approved wildlife rehabilitation course and must be currently certified
19	under the approved organization's guidelines. This course shall be provided by
20	LDWF and be readily available online. Completion of this course will be contingent
21	upon completion of an interactive test. This course shall be subject to a required fee
22	of one hundred twenty-five dollars. Failure to provide proof of successful
23	completion of the course and subsequent continuing education requirements will
24	result in non-licensure or revocation of the WRP.
25	5. All applicants must provide verification of having shall agree to have
26	access to veterinary services by submitting a Statement of Veterinary Support Form
27	provided by LDWF.
28	6. All facilities where animals will be housed or maintained will be inspected
29	by LDWF prior to receiving a WRP. All applicants shall have a suitable habitat for

1	any animals housed and shall report the specifications of the habitat to the
2	department.
3	F. General Rules
4	* * *
5	7. Request for an Extension
6	a. WRP holders shall not possess a non-migratory bird for more than 90
7	days, other injured wildlife longer than 45 days, or other orphaned wildlife no longer
8	than required to prepare the animal for release, but not to exceed 120 days, except
9	that a permit holder may submit a written request for extension of possession if:
10	i. the specified animal will likely be releasable after the time frame listed
11	above but is currently non-releasable because of biological reasons; or
12	ii. a licensed veterinarian determines, due to medical reasons, the animal
13	requires additional rehabilitation time. This provision shall not apply if the animal
14	is otherwise nonreleasable.
15	* * *
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17	office of the state register.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the state register is hereby directed
19	to have the amendments to LAC 76:V.131(E)(4), (5), and (6) and (F)(7) printed and
20	incorporated into the Louisiana 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 6 Original

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Ventrella

<u>Present LAC</u> 76:V.131 provides for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program permitting and operations. <u>Present LAC</u> 76:V.131(E)(4) provides for permit requirements for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, and requires completion of a course certified by the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). <u>Proposed law</u> requires that the course be readily available online, with completion subject to an interactive test, and a \$125 fee requirement.

<u>Present LAC</u> 76:V.131(E)(5) requires applicants to have verification of having access to veterinary services by submitting a Statement of Veterinary Support Form provided by the LDWF. <u>Proposed law</u> requires an applicant to agree to have access to veterinary services.

Page 3 of 4

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<u>Present LAC</u> 76:V.131(E)(6) allows for inspection of an applicant's animal housing facilities by the LDWF. <u>Proposed law</u> provides that an applicant shall have a suitable housing for the animal and shall report the habitat specifications to the department.

<u>Present LAC</u> 76:V.131(F)(7)(a) prohibits wildlife permit holders from possessing the following: (1) non-migratory birds for more than 90 days; (2) other injured wildlife for more than 45 days; and (3) other orphaned wildlife longer than required for release, not to exceed 120 days. Additionally, provides for a written request for extension of possession if the animal is currently nonreleasable but will likely be releasable after the listed time frame, or if a veterinarian determines that the animal requires additional rehabilitation time. <u>Proposed law</u> removes the provisions of <u>present law</u> relative to the written request for extension and provides that the hold limitations do not apply if the animal is otherwise nonreleasable.

(Amends LAC 76:V.131(E)(4), (5), and (6) and (F)(7))