

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 802

BY REPRESENTATIVE DEWITT

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Authorizes the use of dogs to retrieve mortally wounded deer

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:116.3(G), relative to use of dogs while hunting; to provide  
3 for use of dogs to retrieve mortally wounded deer; to provide for the use of handguns  
4 on wounded deer; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 56:116.3(G) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §116.3 Special provisions applicable to deer and bear; times and methods of taking;  
8 penalties

9 \* \* \*

10 G. A licensed hunter or tracker may pursue a deer that was legally shot and  
11 mortally wounded and dispatch the deer if the deer is found alive. Except in wildlife  
12 management areas, the licensed hunter or tracker pursuing the mortally wounded  
13 deer may utilize lights and a blood-trailing or tracking dog. No more than one dog  
14 may be used per tracking party in pursuit of the wounded deer, however a second  
15 dog may be utilized for the purpose of deer retrieval training. Tracking dogs shall  
16 be on a handheld leash or utilize a GPS tracking collar. Any mortally wounded deer,  
17 discovered alive after legal hunting hours, may be dispatched by the licensed hunter  
18 or tracker by using a centerfire handgun with a barrel no longer than six inches,  
19 caliber no larger than .45 or smaller than .25. The licensed hunter or tracker may  
20 pursue a mortally wounded deer onto private property only if he has received verbal



3. Clarify that a licensed hunter or tracker pursuing a mortally wounded deer can use lights and a tracking dog, except in a wildlife management area.
4. Clarify that a mortally wounded deer discovered alive after legal hunting hours may be dispatched.
5. Allow for a licensed hunter or tracker to pursue a mortally wounded deer onto private property only if they have received verbal or written permission from the landowner.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.