
DIGEST

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HB 802 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Dewitt

Abstract: Authorizes the use of dogs to retrieve and then dispatch mortally wounded deer.

Present law requires a dog to be leashed and provides that a leashed dog may be used to trail and retrieve wounded or unrecovered deer during legal hunting hours. Additionally, requires the tracking dog to have a collar with the owner's name, address, and phone number. Prohibits a person from possessing a firearm while accompanying a dog after legal hunting hours. Proposed law modifies present law by removing the requirement for the dog to be leashed to track a wounded deer, provided the dog has a GPS tracking collar.

Proposed law authorizes a licensed hunter to pursue a mortally wounded deer and dispatch the deer if it is found alive.

Proposed law authorizes a hunter tracking a mortally wounded deer to use lights and a tracking dog, except in a wildlife management area.

Proposed law provides for handgun requirements used for the dispatch of a wounded deer, discovered alive after legal hunting hours, by a licensed hunter or tracker.

Proposed law specifies that a licensed hunter or tracker may pursue a mortally wounded deer onto private property if he has received verbal or written permission from the landowner.

(Amends R.S. 56:116.3(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Clarify that a hunter may dispatch a deer if the deer is found alive.
2. Remove language addressing a hunter pursuing a deer during and after legal hunting hours.
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.