

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 231

BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to modify administrative rules regarding the use of airboats within the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

WHEREAS, the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA) contains 112,615 acres of mostly flooded cypress tupelo swamp located along the southern shore of Lake Maurepas in Ascension, Livingston, St. John the Baptist, and St. James parishes; and

WHEREAS, there are several waterways that run through the Maurepas Swamp WMA, including the Blind River, Dutch Bayou, and their tributaries; and

WHEREAS, activities in the WMA include hunting and trapping, camping, birding and wildlife viewing, fishing, and boating; and

WHEREAS, Section 111 of Part XIX of Title 76 (LAC 76:XIX.111) of the Louisiana Administrative Code provides that airboats are prohibited on all wildlife management areas (WMAs) and refuges; and

WHEREAS, the operation of motorboats is not prohibited on WMAs; and

WHEREAS, there is in fact regular motorboat traffic throughout the Maurepas Swamp WMA; and

WHEREAS, the operation of airboats within the Maurepas Swamp WMA should not be prohibited in areas where motorboat traffic is already allowed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to modify the administrative rules regarding WMAs to allow the operation of airboats in any area within the Maurepas Swamp WMA where motorboat traffic is allowed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES