

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 564

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACOB LANDRY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Establishes the Conservation Incentive Program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:10(B)(20) and Part VII of Chapter 8 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised
3 Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 56:1938.1 and 1938.2, relative to wildlife
4 resources and habitat; to establish a conservation incentive program fund; to provide
5 for assisting private landowners with enhancing wildlife habitats and wetlands on
6 private property; to address impacts of invasive species; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 56:10(B)(20) and Part VII of Chapter 8 of Title 56 of the Louisiana
10 Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 56:1938.1 and 1938.2 hereby enacted to
11 read as follows:

12 §10. Annual report to governor; estimate of proposed expenditures; particular funds;
13 limitations on purposes for use of monies in particular funds and accounts;
14 warrants; vouchers; surplus funds

15 * * *

16 B.

17 * * *

18 (20) There is hereby established within the Conservation Fund a special
19 account known as the "Conservation Incentive Program" for the purpose of assisting
20 private landowners in enhancing wildlife habitat and managing native species on

private lands. The funds in this account shall be used solely for and in accordance with the Conservation Incentive Program provided for in R.S. 56:1938.1 et seq. Any appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations received by the state or the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purposes of this program shall be credited to the fund. The monies in the fund shall be subject to the same requirements as provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. The monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as the monies in the state general fund and all interests earned shall be deposited and credited to the fund after compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana. All unexpected or unencumbered monies remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain to the credit of the fund.

* * *

PART VII. LOUISIANA CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

§1938.1. Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program; fund

There is hereby established within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program for the purpose of assisting private land owners to enhance wildlife habitat and to manage native species on private lands. The administration of the program and the projects funded to assist private landowners related to improving and providing wildlife habitats on their property shall be funded by the Conservation Incentive Program fund as provided for in R.S. 56:10(B)(20).

§1938.2. Program eligibility; application process

A. The program funding will rely on an appropriation by the legislature
utilized to initiate a grant program for private landowners. The department will seek
additional funding through federal grant programs and other available sources of
public or private funding.

B. Projects eligible for funding opportunities on private lands include:

(1) Forest stand improvement.

1 (2) Increasing prevalence of water on agricultural landscapes to provide
2 habitat for wintering waterfowl and wetland birds.

3 (3) Management of private wetlands to increase suitability for waterfowl and
4 wetland birds.

5 (4) Prescribed fire implementation.

6 (5) Feral swine control.

7 C. The department shall, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
8 Act, promulgate and adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement this
9 program. The rules shall include procedures for applying for the program and
10 detailed criteria used to evaluate and select projects to receive funding.

11 D. Implementation of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to the
12 appropriation of sufficient funds by the legislature for such purposes.

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)]

HB 564 Original

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Jacob Landry

Abstract: Establishes a conservation incentive program fund to assist private landowners with enhancing wildlife habitats and wetlands on private property and establishes criteria for obtaining assistance.

Present law provides for annual reports to the governor, limits purposes for use of money in certain funds, and provides for the creation of special funds.

Proposed law adds the Conservation Incentive Program to the list of special funds created in present law.

Proposed law creates the Conservation Incentive Program to assist private landowners with improving wildlife habitat on their property.

Proposed law provides for the Conservation Incentive Program to seek additional funding through federal grant programs and other public and private funding sources and to select recipients.

Proposed law provides for the dept. to promulgate and adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of the Conservation Incentive Program.

Proposed law makes implementation of the program contingent on legislative appropriation of sufficient funding.

(Adds R.S. 56:10(B)(20), 1938.1, and 1938.2)