

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 244

BY SENATORS ALLAIN AND KLEINPETER

HUNTERS/HUNTING. Provides for recreational hunting of alligators. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:256, relative to recreational alligator hunting; to provide for a special  
3 season; to provide for taking alligators; to provide for possession; to provide for  
4 quotas; to provide for season modifications; to provide for residency; to provide for  
5 methods of taking; to provide for harvest hours; to provide for licenses; to provide  
6 for tags; to provide for prohibitions; to provide for violations; to provide for  
7 Louisiana Wildlife Commission authority; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 56:256 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§256. Recreational alligator harvest; penalties**

11 **A. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 56:8(92), which defines**  
12 **alligators as nongame quadrupeds, the commission may establish a special**  
13 **recreational alligator season, independent of the traditional commercial**  
14 **alligator season set pursuant to this Subpart.**

15 **B. The commission may establish the season for the recreational taking**  
16 **or possession of alligators by area within the state. The commission may also**  
17 **establish harvest quotas or tag allotments per area of the state. The commission**

1           may extend, curtail, or prohibit the recreational take of alligators in any area  
 2           of the state.

3           C. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the commission  
 4           may prescribe residency requirements, recreational methods of taking alligators  
 5           and hours within which alligators may be taken.

6           D. Any person taking an alligator recreationally shall possess a valid  
 7           basic hunting license, a valid alligator hunting license, and recreational harvest  
 8           tags issued by the department.

9           E. Recreational taking of alligators under any of the following  
 10          circumstances is prohibited:

11           (1) Taking outside of the special season, as designated by the commission.

12           (2) Taking by a person who is without valid licenses or tags.

13           (3) Taking by illegal methods.

14           F. Violation of this Section constitutes a class three violation.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 244 Engrossed

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Allain

Present law provides for a commercial hunting season for alligators.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the commission to establish a special recreational alligator hunting season.

Proposed law provides that the season may allow for taking and possession of alligators by area. Provides for creation of quotas and tag allotments. Further authorizes the commission to modify the length of the season by area.

Proposed law authorizes creation of residency requirements and methods and hours of taking.

Proposed law provides for licensing and tagging requirements. Prohibits the taking of alligators out of season, by persons without licenses or tags, or by illegal methods. Provides that violation of proposed law is a class three violation.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 56:256)