

SENATE BILL NO. 244

BY SENATORS ALLAIN, BARROW, BASS, CARTER, CATHEY, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, MILLER, MIZELL, MYERS, OWEN, SELDERS AND STINE AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, BOYER, BROUSSARD, BUTLER, CARLSON, COATES, DEVILLIER, EGAN, FISHER, FONTENOT, HORTON, LACOMBE, MARTINEZ, MCFARLAND, MELERINE, OWEN, RISER, VENTRELLA, WYBLE AND ZERINGUE

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; to provide for an effective date; and to
8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

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

16 **B. The commission may establish the season for the recreational taking**
17 **or possession of alligators by area within the state. The commission may also**
18 **establish harvest quotas or tag allotments per area of the state. The commission**
19 **may extend, curtail, or prohibit the recreational take of alligators in any area**
20 **of the state.**

1 C. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the commission
 2 may prescribe residency requirements, recreational methods of taking alligators
 3 and hours within which alligators may be taken, and may except recreationally-
 4 harvested alligators from the requirements of R.S. 56:253.

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

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

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

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

12 (3) Taking by illegal methods.

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

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 18 effective on the day following such approval.

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____