

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY REPRESENTATIVES SAWYER, AMEDEE, BROUSSARD, CARLSON, WILFORD CARTER, MARTINEZ, AND ST. BLANC AND SENATORS CATHEY, EDMONDS, HENRY, HODGES, LUNEAU, MIGUEZ, MYERS, OWEN, AND PRICE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to study the feasibility of incorporating age- and grade-appropriate hunting education, conservation education, and shooting sports courses into curricula for public school students in grades five through twelve and to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2027.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is widely recognized as the Sportsman's Paradise because of its ecosystems, natural resources, and longstanding traditions of hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries manages more than 1.6 million acres of wildlife management areas, refuges, and conservation areas for public use; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana also benefits from substantial federally-owned public lands with hunting access, giving current and future hunters a wide range of opportunities across the state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's wetlands, forests, swamps, marshes, and other public lands provide opportunities to hunt alligator, deer, dove, turkey, waterfowl, and migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:699.5 requires each person born on or after September 1, 1969, to complete a Hunter Education Course approved by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries prior to hunting; and

WHEREAS, firearm, shooting sports, and hunter education programs can teach the state's youth not only how to hunt and safely participate in shooting sports but also how to use firearms responsibly and how to respect firearms and their capabilities, which could reduce the occurrence of accidents involving firearms; and

WHEREAS, in several states, such as Iowa, Kansas, South Carolina, and Tennessee, middle and high school students are able to learn about firearm safety and hunting, with some districts incorporating such instruction into physical education; the next generation of Louisiana sportsmen and sportswomen could also benefit from such curricula.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to study the feasibility of incorporating age- and grade-appropriate hunting education, conservation education, and shooting sports courses into curricula for public school students in grades five through twelve, and to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include, but need not be limited to, the feasibility of the following:

(1) Hunter education being incorporated into existing physical education curricula or being offered as a Physical Education II elective course.

(2) Hunting courses including firearm and hunting safety, wildlife identification and management, outdoor survival skills, conservation education, and other applicable course content.

(3) The successful completion of a hunting course resulting in a Hunter Education Certification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, and the secretary of the wildlife and fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE