

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVES THIBAUT, ANDERS, BISHOP, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, ROBBY CARTER, CONNICK, COX, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GUINN, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENSGENS, HILL, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, ROBERT JOHNSON, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, JIM MORRIS, AND WHITE AND SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

WHEREAS, feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*), including European wild hogs and hybrids, commonly weigh two hundred pounds but can easily weigh up to four hundred pounds, are quickly becoming the most serious problem facing land managers and hunters in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, feral hogs are omnivorous but vegetation constitutes the largest portion of their diet as they use their very tough nose that allows them to "root" for invertebrates, tubers, or any other underground food, thereby disrupting crops, golf courses, levees, hayfields, tree farms, and even lawns; and

WHEREAS, feral hogs are extremely prolific with generally two litters per year of up to ten piglets per litter; while the feral hogs have virtually no natural predators, so piglet survival is nearly one hundred percent which allows the population to increase geometrically; and

WHEREAS, feral hogs are plagued by a multitude of diseases that can affect humans, commercial swine operations, or wildlife, including swine brucellosis, pseudorabies, and classical swine fever; and

WHEREAS, with their high proliferation and lack of natural predators, management of feral hogs is of paramount importance to the state and the hunters and farmers of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as follows:

A. There is hereby established the Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force to study and monitor the feral hog issues in the state of Louisiana and to make recommendations for the management of the feral hogs.

B. The task force shall be composed as follows:

(1) One member appointed from the staff of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

(2) One member appointed from the staff of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry by the commissioner of agriculture.

(3) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Hog Hunters Association.

(4) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Landowners Association.

(5) One member appointed by the commissioner of agriculture from three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Forestry Association.

(6) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Quality Deer Management Association.

(7) One member appointed from the faculty of the LSU College of Agriculture appointed by the dean of the LSU College of Agriculture.

(8) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists – Louisiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

(9) One member appointed by the commissioner of agriculture from three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

(10) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from three nominees submitted by the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana.

(11) One member appointed by the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries from three nominees submitted by the Wildlife Research Institute.

C. The members appointed under the provisions of Paragraphs (B)(1), (2), and (10) of this Section shall be nonvoting members. However, they shall be considered members of the task force for determination of the number of members necessary for a quorum and for establishing the presence of a quorum.

D. Six members of the task force shall constitute a quorum sufficient to conduct meetings and business of the task force. The task force shall elect a chairman from its membership and may seek and receive assistance from universities within the state in the development of methods to manage feral hogs in the state of Louisiana. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation; however, the task force may receive the same reimbursement of travel expenses for attending task force meetings as is allowed for other state employees' travel.

E. The task force is hereby charged with the responsibility to make recommendations with respect to issues pertaining to feral hog management efforts, including public awareness programs, to the various state agencies charged with the responsibility for managing the feral hogs in this state, including the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the legislature. The task force shall consider hunter-based solutions and shall gather input from various stakeholder groups.

F. The Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force shall submit an annual report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources no later than February 1st of each year and shall cease to exist on January 1, 2020, and thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, from the monies appropriated to the department by the legislature, is hereby directed to fund activities related to feral hog management, education, research, and control during Fiscal

Year 2016-2017 in an amount not less than Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars in excess of the amount expended for such purpose during Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the commissioner of agriculture.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE