

1 WHEREAS, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Basic Skills Course is only offered
2 annually; and

3 WHEREAS, offering the course online will make it more readily available to the
4 general public who may wish to obtain a wildlife rehabilitation permit; and

5 WHEREAS, requiring verification of access to veterinary services can be overly
6 burdensome on a person interested in the rehabilitation of wildlife; and

7 WHEREAS, allowing for inspections of housing facilities can be overly intrusive on
8 a person interested in the rehabilitation of wildlife; and

9 WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is a self-funded department
10 and the requirement of a fee for licensure offsets the cost for the rehabilitation program.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that LAC
12 76:V.131(E)(4), (5), and (6) and (F)(7) are hereby amended to read as follows:

13 §131. Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

14 * * *

15 E. Permit Requirements

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17 4. Prior to licensure or renewal, all applicants must show proof of completion
18 of a LDWF-approved wildlife rehabilitation course and must be currently certified
19 under the approved organization's guidelines. This course shall be provided by
20 LDWF and be readily available online. Completion of this course will be contingent
21 upon completion of an interactive test. This course shall be subject to a required fee
22 of one hundred twenty-five dollars. Failure to provide proof of successful
23 completion of the course and subsequent continuing education requirements will
24 result in non-licensure or revocation of the WRP.

25 5. All applicants ~~must provide verification of having~~ shall agree to have
26 access to veterinary services by submitting a Statement of Veterinary Support Form
27 provided by LDWF.

28 6. ~~All facilities where animals will be housed or maintained will be inspected~~
29 ~~by LDWF prior to receiving a WRP.~~ All applicants shall have a suitable habitat for

Present LAC 76:V.131(E)(6) allows for inspection of an applicant's animal housing facilities by the LDWF. Proposed law provides that an applicant shall have a suitable housing for the animal and shall report the habitat specifications to the department.

Present LAC 76:V.131(F)(7)(a) prohibits wildlife permit holders from possessing the following: (1) non-migratory birds for more than 90 days; (2) other injured wildlife for more than 45 days; and (3) other orphaned wildlife longer than required for release, not to exceed 120 days. Additionally, provides for a written request for extension of possession if the animal is currently nonreleasable but will likely be releasable after the listed time frame, or if a veterinarian determines that the animal requires additional rehabilitation time. Proposed law removes the provisions of present law relative to the written request for extension and provides that the hold limitations do not apply if the animal is otherwise nonreleasable.

(Amends LAC 76:V.131(E)(4), (5), and (6) and (F)(7))