

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 564

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACOB LANDRY

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:10(B)(20) and Part VII of Chapter 8 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 56:1938.1 and 1938.2, relative to wildlife resources and habitat; to establish a conservation incentive program account; to provide for assisting private landowners with enhancing wildlife habitats and wetlands on private property; to address impacts of invasive species; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:10(B)(20) and Part VII of Chapter 8 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 56:1938.1 and 1938.2, are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§10. Annual report to governor; estimate of proposed expenditures; particular funds; limitations on purposes for use of monies in particular funds and accounts; warrants; vouchers; surplus funds

* * *

B.

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(20) There is hereby established within the Conservation Fund a special account known as the "Conservation Incentive Program Account" for the purpose of assisting private landowners in enhancing wildlife habitat and managing native species on private lands. The funds in this account shall be used solely for and in accordance with the Conservation Incentive Program provided for in R.S. 56:1938.1

1 et seq. Any transfers or appropriations to the account and any public or private gifts,
2 grants, or donations received by the state or the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
3 for the purposes of this program shall be deposited into the account. Monies in the
4 account shall be subject to the same requirements as provided for other revenues
5 placed in the Conservation Fund in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. The monies in
6 the account shall be invested in the same manner as the monies in the state general
7 fund and all interests earned shall be deposited and credited to the account after
8 compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of
9 Louisiana. All unexpended or unencumbered monies remaining in the account at the
10 end of the fiscal year shall remain to the credit of the account.

11 * * *

12 PART VII. LOUISIANA CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

13 §1938.1. Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program; fund

14 There is hereby established within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
15 the Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program for the purpose of assisting private
16 land owners to enhance wildlife habitat and to manage native species on private
17 lands. The administration of the program and the projects funded to assist private
18 landowners related to improving and providing wildlife habitats on their property
19 shall be funded by the Conservation Incentive Program Account as provided for in
20 R.S. 56:10(B)(20).

21 §1938.2. Program eligibility; application process

22 A. The department shall establish a grant program for projects eligible to
23 receive funding through the Louisiana Conservation Incentive Program. Grants shall
24 be awarded only in fiscal years in which the department receives an appropriation
25 for the program. The department may seek additional funding through federal grant
26 programs and other available sources of public or private funding.

27 B. Projects eligible for funding opportunities on private lands include:

28 (1) Forest stand improvement.

29 (2) Increasing prevalence of water on agricultural landscapes to provide
30 habitat for wintering waterfowl and wetland birds.

1 (3) Management of private wetlands to increase suitability for waterfowl and
 2 wetland birds.

3 (4) Prescribed fire implementation.

4 (5) Feral swine control.

5 C. The department shall, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
 6 Act, promulgate and adopt rules necessary to implement this program. The rules
 7 shall include procedures for applying for the program and detailed criteria used to
 8 evaluate and select projects to receive funding.

9 Section 2.(A) The provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall become effective when
 10 an Act of the Louisiana Legislature containing a specific appropriation of monies for the
 11 implementation of the provisions of this Act becomes effective.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____