

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 662

BY REPRESENTATIVES GEYMANN AND VENTRELLA

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Provides with respect to seizure of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife legally possessed

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:56(A)(1) and (B) and to enact R.S. 56:126(G) and 126.1,  
3 relative to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; to limit the seizure of certain  
4 wildlife that are subject to a rehabilitation or rescue program; to provide for a  
5 contradictory hearing; to prohibit euthanizing certain animals without a court order;  
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 56:56(A)(1) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9 56:126(G) and 126.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §56. Seizure or surrender of things illegally used or possessed

11 A. Any enforcing officer may seize:

12 (1) Any dead animal or parts thereof, possessed, transported, sold, offered  
13 for sale, or purchased contrary to the provisions of this Title.

14 \* \* \*

15 B. Any live animal which is illegal to possess or which may be possessed  
16 only by permit or license from the department may be voluntarily surrendered to the  
17 department without penalty. The person surrendering the animal shall be immune  
18 from prosecution for illegally possessing or possessing without a permit or license  
19 provided the surrendering of the animal is initiated prior to any independent  
20 investigation or contact by any public employee operating in their official capacity.



1 preference over all other matters and cases fixed for the same day and shall be heard  
2 continuously day after day until submitted for adjudication.

3 E. Upon the showing made by the parties on the trial of the rule to show  
4 cause, the court shall determine both of the following:

5 (1) If the sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife poses an immediate danger to  
6 the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana.

7 (2) If the individual seeking to possess the sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife  
8 has met all of the requirements provided for in R.S. 56:126(B).

9 F. In every case where sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife is not determined  
10 to pose an immediate danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of  
11 Louisiana, the court shall order the individual to comply with the conditions  
12 established for possession of that wildlife pursuant to R.S. 56:126(B) if they have not  
13 already done so and order the sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife be returned to the  
14 individual.

15 G. In every case where the sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife is determined  
16 to pose an immediate danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of  
17 Louisiana, the court shall issue an order directing that the sick, injured, or orphaned  
18 wildlife be humanely euthanized.

19 H. The pleading, practice, and procedure in all cases under this Section shall,  
20 in addition to the requirements of this Section, be in accordance with the Code of  
21 Civil Procedure and the laws and rules of court governing practice before the district  
22 courts of this state.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 662 Original

2026 Regular Session

Geymann

**Abstract:** Prohibits the seizure and euthanization of certain wildlife without a contradictory hearing.

Present law provides that La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) may seize any animal or parts thereof, possessed, transported, sold, offered for sale, or purchased contrary to the provisions of this Title.

Proposed law changes present law to seizing any dead animal.

Present law provides that the LDWF can dispose of any live animal seized or surrendered to the department in any manner it deems appropriate.

Proposed law changes present law to prohibit the seizure of any orphaned or injured wildlife possessed pursuant to present law without the issuance of a warrant authorizing the seizure from the district court of the parish where the individual in possession of the sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife resides.

Proposed law further provides that no sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife seized can be euthanized without a contradictory hearing and court order that the animal poses an immediate danger to the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of La. and directing that the animal be humanely euthanized.

Present law provides for an injured and orphaned wildlife rehabilitation provisions.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that present law will have prospective and retroactive application to apply to any animal in the possession of any person regardless of when the animal was initially possessed.

(Amends R.S. 56:56(A)(1) and (B); Adds R.S. 56:126(G) and 126.1)