

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 785

BY REPRESENTATIVE GEYMANN

WILDLIFE/ENFORCEMENT: Establishes animal rehabilitation oversight within the Department of Agriculture

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part IX of Chapter 17 of Title 3 of the Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised  
3 of R.S. 3:2521, relative to animal rehabilitation; to establish an Animal  
4 Rehabilitation Program within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry; to require  
5 the commissioner to work with the state veterinarian to establish rules and  
6 procedures for the program; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part IX of Chapter 17 of Title 3 of the Revised Statutes of 1950 comprised  
9 of R.S. 3:2521, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 PART IX. ANIMAL REHABILITATION

11 §2521. Animal Rehabilitation Program

12 There shall be established within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
13 a program to permit the housing, treatment, and care of injured or orphaned  
14 indigenous animals with the goal of subsequent release of those healthy animals to  
15 appropriate habitats in the wild. The commissioner shall work with the state  
16 veterinarian to establish rules and procedures for the program.

17 Section 2. This Act shall take effect and become operative if and when the proposed  
18 amendment of Article IX of the Constitution of Louisiana contained in the Act which  
19 originated as House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ of this 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature is  
20 adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

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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 785 Original

2026 Regular Session

Geymann

**Abstract:** Establishes an Animal Rehabilitation Program within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and requires the commissioner to work with the state veterinarian to establish rules and procedures for the program.

Proposed law establishes an Animal Rehabilitation Program within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to provide for the care and treatment of orphaned and injured indigenous animals of the state.

Proposed law requires the commissioner to work with the state veterinarian to establish rules and procedures for the program.

(Adds R.S. 3:2521)