

1 WHEREAS, data also shows that the mallard count in Missouri rose from two
2 hundred eighty thousand in 1999 to five hundred thousand in 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, the annual mallard harvest in Louisiana declined by approximately
4 ninety-five percent between 1999 and 2021, marking the most severe drop among states
5 within the Mississippi Flyway; and

6 WHEREAS, data indicates that mallards are stopping and concentrating in other
7 regions where there is manual flooding of corn; and

8 WHEREAS, the intentional flooding of corn fields in other regions has decreased
9 waterfowl populations in Louisiana and weakened the foundational standards of wildlife
10 conservation; and

11 WHEREAS, fewer waterfowl migrating south will likely accelerate this decline,
12 leading to additional losses in conservation revenues and other funding sources that support
13 wildlife habitat programs; and

14 WHEREAS, in anticipation of the declining rates of waterfowl in Louisiana, Senator
15 John N. Kennedy has requested that the USFWS conduct a study examining how flooded
16 corn influences migratory waterfowl behavior, winter distribution patterns, and related
17 economic effects within the Mississippi Flyway.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19 express its support for the request by Senator John N. Kennedy to the USFWS to conduct
20 a study to evaluate the impact of flooded corn on migratory waterfowl behavior, winter
21 distributions, and related economic outcomes in the Mississippi Flyway.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
23 director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

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)]

HCR 15 Original

2026 Regular Session

LaCombe

Expresses the support of the La. Legislature for the request by Senator John N. Kennedy to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate a formal study to evaluate the impact of flooded corn on migratory waterfowl behavior, wintering distributions, and associated economic outcomes in the Mississippi Flyway.