
HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 934 by Representative Ventrella as proposed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.

To enact R.S. 56:129, relative to possession of wildlife; to permit the possession of white-tailed deer by wildlife rehabilitators; to provide for requirements and prohibitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:129 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§129. Possession of white-tailed deer; prohibitions

Wildlife rehabilitators permitted pursuant to LAC 76:V.131 may possess white-tailed deer subject to the following provisions:

(1) Rehabilitation of white-tailed deer originating from outside of Louisiana is strictly prohibited.

(2) The rehabilitation of injured or orphaned white-tailed deer originating from within a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone shall be permitted; however, any such deer shall be rehabbed and released only within the boundaries of the same CWD Management Zone from which the animal originated

(a) Any person or entity engaged in the rehabilitation of such deer shall be strictly responsible for the monitoring of the animal's health during rehabilitation and shall maintain a diligent watch for any neurological symptoms or other indicators consistent with CWD.

(b) Failure to comply with the provisions of this Paragraph shall constitute a violation subject to penalties as provided by law, and may result in the revocation of any applicable rehabilitation permit.

(3) Any animal that displays abnormal neurological symptoms shall be euthanized and a CWD sample submitted to the department. Until a negative CWD result is received all deer within the facility shall remain quarantined.

(4) If any deer from a rehabilitation facility receives a positive CWD result, all live white-tailed deer shall be euthanized and CWD samples collected. That rehabilitation facility shall be prohibited from participating in deer rehabilitation activities in the future.

(5) Any white-tailed deer displaying open fractures, neurological symptoms, or symptoms of epizootic hemorrhagic disease, or blue tongue, are ineligible for rehabilitation.

(6) Any white-tailed deer that display signs of being habituated to humans is ineligible for rehabilitation.

(7) The minimum enclosure size shall be fifteen feet by twenty feet by eight feet for a single fawn. The pen shall be increased by fifty square feet for each additional animal. The maximum number of fawns allowed per enclosure shall be four, regardless of size. The enclosure shall be constructed of wood or wire with a minimum thickness of twelve gauge with no greater than two-inch mesh or other sturdy materials to prevent escape and to prevent domestic animals or predators from gaining access to the pen. The enclosure shall be constructed in an area out of sight of high traffic human and pet activity. If wire mesh fencing is used, a privacy or shade cloth must cover all sides.

(8) Once fawns are accustomed to drinking from a bottle, they must be fed only from a hanging rack.

(9) Predetermined release location sites shall be specified by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries prior to each release. The wildlife rehabilitator shall notify the department permits coordinator at least seventy-two hours in advance of a planned release.

(10) No tags, collars, or other visual marks on white-tail deer to be released shall be allowed.

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)]

HB Draft

2026 Regular Session

Abstract: Permits the possession of white-tailed deer by wildlife rehabilitators and provides for requirements and prohibitions.

Proposed law permits the possession of white-tailed deer by wildlife rehabilitators permitted pursuant to LAC 76:V.131.

Proposed law prohibits the rehabilitation of white-tailed deer originating outside of La.

Proposed law allows the rehabilitation of white-tailed deer from a Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone provided the deer only be released in the same zone from which it originated and the rehabilitator monitor closely for symptoms of the disease subject to revocation of the rehabilitation permit.

Proposed law provides for the euthanization of any deer showing symptoms of chronic wasting disease and for quarantine and testing for all deer at the facility.

Proposed law prohibits possession of deer showing symptoms of illness or displaying open fractures and deer that display signs of habituation to humans.

Proposed law provides specifications for enclosure sizes, location, and material for construction of enclosures.

Proposed law provides that fawns be fed from a hanging rack once accustomed to drinking from a bottle.

Proposed law provides for notification of permits coordinator of planned release location and prohibits tags, collars, or visual marks on deer to be released.

(Adds R.S. 56:129)