

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVES BUTLER, AMEDEE, BOUDREAUX, BROUSSARD, ROBBY CARTER, COATES, DEWITT, ECHOLS, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, AND WYBLE AND SENATORS ALLAIN, BARROW, BASS, CATHEY, CLOUD, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY, MCMATH, MIGUEZ, OWEN, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress and to urge and request the United States Forest Service to take such actions as are necessary to allow the use of dogs for deer hunting in the Kisatchie National Forest and to urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the United States Forest Service to ensure the safe and sustainable use of dogs for hunting in the Kisatchie National Forest.

WHEREAS, the Kisatchie National Forest, spanning approximately six hundred four thousand acres across seven parishes in central and northern Louisiana, provides valuable wildlife habitat and public access for outdoor recreation, including hunting; and

WHEREAS, deer hunting is a long-standing tradition in Louisiana, and the use of trained dogs for deer hunting has been an important part of that tradition in many rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the use of dogs for hunting, training, and retrieval is a longstanding tradition among hunters in Louisiana and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, properly managed hunting with dogs assists in the effective and humane harvesting and recovery of game and reduces wounded-animal loss thus supporting wildlife population objectives consistent with federal and state conservation laws; and

WHEREAS, current federal regulations and management policies of the United States Forest Service restrict or prohibit the use of dogs for deer hunting in the Kisatchie National Forest; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana sportsmen and sportswomen believe that allowing the use of dogs for deer hunting in Kisatchie would promote hunter participation, preserve hunting heritage, and provide additional wildlife management benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the capacity and expertise to work collaboratively with the United States Forest Service to establish clear, reasonable rules, seasons, and management practices to ensure safe and sustainable use of dogs for deer hunting within the Kisatchie National Forest consistent with conservation and public-safety objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the cultural, recreational, and economic benefits of hunting in Louisiana and seeks to restore opportunities for the lawful use of dogs in deer hunting on federal lands within the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and urges and requests the United States Forest Service to take all necessary and appropriate actions to allow the use of dogs for the hunting and retrieval of deer in the Kisatchie National Forest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the United States Forest Service to establish clear, reasonable rules, seasons, and management practices to ensure safe and sustainable use of dogs for deer hunting within the Kisatchie National Forest consistent with conservation and public safety objectives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority leader of the United States Senate, the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the chief of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE