

2026 Regular Session

ACT No. 725

HOUSE BILL NO. 1248
Ventrella)

(Substitute for House Bill No. 934 by Representative

BY REPRESENTATIVE VENTRELLA

1 AN ACT

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

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

7 §129. Possession of white-tailed deer; prohibitions

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

10 (1) Rehabilitation of white-tailed deer originating from outside of Louisiana
11 shall be strictly prohibited.

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

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

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

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

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

12 **(5) Any white-tailed deer that display open fractures, neurological**
13 **symptoms, or symptoms of epizootic hemorrhagic disease or bluetongue virus shall**
14 **be ineligible for rehabilitation.**

15 **(6) Any white-tailed deer that display signs of being habituated to humans**
16 **shall be ineligible for rehabilitation.**

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

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

28 **(9) The wildlife rehabilitator shall notify the department permits coordinator**
29 **at least seventy-two hours in advance of a planned release. The predetermined**

1 release location sites shall be specified by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2 prior to each release.
3 (10) No tags, collars, or other visual marks on white-tail deer to be released
4 shall be allowed.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____