## 2018 Regular Session

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

## BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK

# HUNTING: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to authorize increased hunting opportunities of feral hogs on Wildlife Management Areas

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the opportunities
3	to take feral hogs from wildlife management areas and to make any
4	recommendations to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission necessary to
5	accomplish that goal.
6	WHEREAS, feral hogs (Sus scrofa), including European wild hogs and hybrids,
7	commonly weigh two hundred pounds but can easily weigh up to four hundred pounds, are
8	quickly becoming the most serious problem facing land managers and hunters in Louisiana;
9	and
10	WHEREAS, feral hogs are omnivorous but vegetation constitutes the largest portion
11	of their diet as they use their very tough nose that allows them to "root" for invertebrates,
12	tubers, or any other underground food, thereby disrupting crops, golf courses, levees,
13	hayfields, tree farms, and even lawns; and
14	WHEREAS, feral hogs are extremely prolific with generally two litters per year of
15	up to ten piglets per litter; while the feral hogs have virtually no natural predators, so piglet
16	survival is nearly one hundred percent which allows the population to increase
17	exponentially; and
18	WHEREAS, feral hogs are plagued by a multitude of diseases that can affect humans,
19	commercial swine operations, or wildlife, including swine brucellosis, pseudorabies, and
20	classical swine fever; and

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WHEREAS, with their high proliferation and lack of natural predators, management 2 of feral hogs is of paramount importance to the state and the hunters and farmers of the state; 3 and

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establishes, maintains, and manages wildlife management areas and is charged with establishing all rules 5 6 and regulations pertaining to the propagation, protection, and harvest of all species of 7 wildlife on wildlife management areas: and

8 WHEREAS, many owners of farm and hunting land are using the tools created by 9 recent changes to hunting laws aimed at reducing feral hog infestations, including taking 10 feral hogs any day of the year, on certain nights of the year, with firearms equipped with 11 sounds suppressers, and by aircraft; and

12 WHEREAS, these landowners' efforts have been stymied by the refuge for feral hogs

13 created on wildlife management areas due to decreased hunting pressure as feral hogs can

14 only be taken on wildlife management areas on days during an open hunting season with the

15 method of take for that particular open season.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

17 urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the opportunities to

- 18 take feral hogs from wildlife management areas and to make any recommendations to the
- 19 Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission necessary to accomplish that goal.
- 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 21 to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

### 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 83 Engrossed

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Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to increase the opportunities to take feral hogs from wildlife management areas and to make any recommendations to the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission necessary to accomplish that goal.