

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY REPRESENTATIVE MINCEY

HUNTING/DEER: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to research, evaluate, and make recommendations relative to allowing the use of dogs for deer hunting on the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to assess  
3 the potential for an experimental season allowing deer hunting with the use of dogs  
4 on a portion of the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

5 WHEREAS, R.S. 56:109 establishes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's sole  
6 authority to establish rules and regulations pertaining to wild quadrupeds on WMAs; and

7 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to  
8 enhance and protect wildlife habitat in the state, to ensure the protection of the natural  
9 resources, and to preserve, protect and promote biological diversity; and

10 WHEREAS, additionally, it is the responsibility of the Wildlife and Fisheries  
11 Commission to enhance, protect, and restore natural wetland and upland habitats to promote  
12 environmental education and research; and

13 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the LDWF to enhance and promote hunting  
14 opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, certain portions of the state have enjoyed a dog hunting culture and  
16 tradition to hunt deer as a recreational pursuit; and

17 WHEREAS, portions of the Maurepas Swamp WMA, prior to becoming a state  
18 property managed by the LDWF, provided areas for some Louisiana hunters to pursue deer  
19 with dogs; and

1           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted regulations  
2 restricting the use of dogs for hunting deer on Maurepas Swamp WMA; and

3           WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Legislature of Louisiana to review the rationale  
4 for prohibiting hunting deer with dogs on the Maruepas Swamp WMA and to determine if  
5 any deer hunting opportunity with the use of dogs could be allowed during an experimental  
6 season.

7           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
8 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to complete an  
9 assessment and review of the use of dogs to hunt deer on the Maurepas Swamp WMA,  
10 including proposed hunting guidelines and proposed hunting area and season guidelines.

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written report of the assessment and review  
12 completed by the department, including proposed guidelines, be submitted to the House  
13 Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives no later than January 18, 2024.

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
16 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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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)]

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HR 85 Engrossed

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Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to assess the potential for an experimental season allowing deer hunting with dogs on the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area. Requires a written report of the assessment to be completed by the department, including proposed guidelines, and submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the speaker of the House of Representatives by Jan. 18, 2024.